



## Questionnaire on shale gas fracking, to all political parties and candidates contesting the August 2016 Territory election

Please answer **Yes** or **No** for each of the following questions. Feel free to also add additional comments to your answers.

**Your answers will be made available to the public via Lock the Gate, the Northern Territory Frack Free Alliance and community networks across the Territory.**

1) Will you <sup>advocate for</sup> ~~set up a~~ independent scientific panel of experts to provide binding advice on the issues surrounding shale gas fracking and its social, environmental and public health impacts?

**YES**

NO

Optional comment:

I have changed it to 'advocate for' rather than 'set up' because I am one person, not a party. I'm a bit concerned about the 'binding' nature of the premise. If the scientists were appointed by the CLP you may have a problem with what is recommended. There's enough scientific evidence already to put a stop to shale gas fracturing and I would endeavour to have that honoured.

2) Will you ensure full baseline studies of ground and surface water quality and quantity are undertaken and publicly available before drilling for shale gas commences?

**YES**

NO

Optional comment:

Baseline studies are so often left out when negotiating mining. In a lot of cases, exploration drilling has already commenced making the baseline a little skewed if it is recorded at all. You would think this was already written into legislation and I will endeavour to make it so. As we have seen with other projects, environmental studies are often missed. An independent federal level environmental protection agency needs to do these types of studies or at least ratify them because you can't trust the NT Government whether it is CLP or Labor.

3) Will you prevent the risks of shale gas fracking in the Territory by halting the industry until it can be proven safe, by:

- A ban on any development of the shale gas industry for at least 5 years

- A moratorium on shale gas drilling until science and community concerns are fully researched and resolved

- Other, please outline:

In conclusion:

The risks of shale gas drilling is just too high. I will strongly speak against this industry in the same way I spoke against the Angela Pamela Uranium mine in past years. I will not back off and I will not compromise. Our water and land is too precious to risk. Mining has never given the NT long term stability. It is a duplicitous industry and the gains, if any, are short term. The jobs do not last and the workers often suffer permanent health damage. Renewables are the way to go. Our future depends on people being strong and radical now.

*Jane Clark*

4) Will you support the right of landholders and Traditional Owners to say no to shale gas extraction on their properties and lands?

**YES**

NO

Optional comment:

I would like to see this negotiated via CLC or NLC and a culturally sensitive framework implemented.

5) Would you support a chain of responsibility for resource extraction framework that:

Ensures parent companies of mines and executives are responsible for financial clean up of pollution even if companies go bankrupt during mining or rehabilitation, to ensure the burden does not fall on the local landholder or the NT Government?

**YES**

NO

Optional comment:

Adequate funds need to be put in trust at the outset and reviewed continuously by an independent body, not connected with the NT govt (who has a vested interested in mining royalties). I prefer a Federal government body to overview this in cooperation with an independent environment NGO.

6) Will you support a truly independent EPA with the lead assessment, enforcement and compliance power over fracking and mining companies? Will the EPA set strict regulations on waste management and pollution by shale gas companies and hold operators legally and financially accountable?

**YES**

NO

Optional comment:

7) Will you review currently approved onshore gas areas and implement 'no go zones' over drinking water catchments and groundwater recharge areas, regional and remote community living areas and important tourism regions, so they are protected from onshore shale gas fracking?

**YES**

NO

Optional comment:

Isn't a shame that this is not already the case?

8) In the event of water contamination in areas of the NT targeted by shale gas fracking, do you support a policy where it is up to the companies involved to prove they didn't contaminate the water? (This would replace the current system where the onus of proof falls on the landholder to prove their water was clean before shale gas extraction operated in the area.)

**YES**

NO

Optional comment:

9) Will you mandate under law that shale gas companies must hold comprehensive environmental pollution insurance before they can operate in the NT and that they hold a substantial bond for at least 25 years after fracking concludes to cover any future damages?

**YES**

NO

Optional comment:

It may be that 25 years is not long enough. Local Governments are responsible for managing landfills for 30 years after they have stopped dumping household rubbish. Surely mining operations need even longer.

**Thank you for completing this survey that is of great interest to Territory residents.  
Please email your completed questionnaire to FrackFreeNT@gmail.com.**

I wasn't going to run in this election because I had surgery in April and a second surgery last week. But I decided on Monday that I just couldn't sit back and let these issues sail past. My opposition to Fracking is the main reason I want to be part of the campaign. Obviously I will not have a chance of winning against the rich boys and the parties but I can have my say. I can't get out and door knock or attend rallies yet. I might be okay to do so in the final week of the campaign.

I will, however, be doing a daily 10 minute podcast: <http://braitling.janeclark.com.au>