

15th March 2018

Dear Dr Hatton and Panel

I am a geologist by profession and an unbiased and questioning scientist by nature.

I have worked as a consultant on several hydraulic fracture stimulation projects in the Kimberley and also in Texas (USA).

There is nothing I have seen either in Australia or in Texas which would have me conclude anything different from what I have read in the several independent and government reports into fracking - that is, the conclusion that hydraulic fracking is safe (with the right degree of regulatory oversight) and is unlikely to pose any significant risk to groundwater or to human health.

I urge the Panel to stick strictly to its Terms of Reference and that it uses credible and historical evidence to assess the level of risk associated with identified impacts. And that the Panel do not let unrelated issues such as climate change or re-told untruths such as lighting gas from faucets to interfere with your objective process.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CH', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Chris Hodge