



Barkly Landcare & Conservation Association Inc.

Establishing Sound Land Management Practices in the Barkly Region of the Northern Territory

Right to Refuse (Gas and Coal) Bill 2015

I am writing to express the collective concerns of the members of Barkly Landcare & Conservation Association about the current and planned exploration for oil and gas in the Barkley Tableland region of the Northern Territory.

The Barkly region is hugely successful cattle grazing region and the members of Barkly Landcare & Conservation Association are all pastoralists, cattle graziers. BLCA is concerned about the lack of legal rights afforded to property owners and managers to prevent exploration for oil and gas. BLCA is opposed to oil and gas exploration in the Barkly Tablelands region.

The recently released Hawke Report into Hydraulic Fracturing identified the need for strong laws and baseline studies to protect people and the environment from potential impacts of fracking or fracturing, a part of the oil and gas exploration process. The exploration process puts immense pressures on the current water supply as well as on the land. Additionally, the risk of water contamination exists through this process.

It is not worth sacrificing a long-term healthy country for a short-term financial gain.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Christianson
Director, Barkly Landcare & Conservation Association