

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
By email only: fadt.sen@aph.gov.au

15 March 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

I am the convener for the Australian Tribunal into Human Rights Impacts of Unconventional Gas contributing to the Session of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal into the Human Rights impact of Fracking 14-18 May 2018.

The project has gathered quality testimony from individuals and experts regarding the ways in which the Unconventional Gas Industry has violated their Human Rights. I refer you to the web site www.peopletribunalongas.org and submit it in its entirety to this Inquiry.

The source of these injustices is the failure of the Australian Government to have a Human Rights Charter or bill of rights in federal or state legislation. This means that the decisions that the government and legislature are making in regard to this industry and its impact are being made without consideration to the human rights aspects and as a result without consideration to SDGs.

These aspects include:

- The right to a safe, healthy and sustainable environment
- The right to health
- Family's right to protection
- The right to water, food, property, privacy
- The right to know and the right to information
- The right to your culture
- The right to participate in the decisions of the government.
- The right to remedy, redress and mitigation
- The right to free, prior and informed consent
- The right to the protection of the law

We are greatly concerned that the commitments to the SDGs cannot be fulfilled while the government is providing the counterproductive support to the industry.

In specific response to the terms of reference for the Inquiry the items below are supported by the evidence provided on the web site:

- a) the understanding and awareness of the SDG across the Australian Government and in the wider Australian community;
 - the Australian Government demonstrates no understanding or awareness of these SDG when:

- i. they are overtly supportive of the unconventional gas industry to the detriment of human rights and renewable energy.
 - ii. the unconventional gas industry enjoys unprecedented financial and regulatory support.
<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/tax-dodgers/bg-international-aus-pty-limited/>
 - iii. the result of 17 federal and state inquiries into the industry have resulted in only further entrenching of the industry despite overt and significant opposition by the public.
- b) the potential costs, benefits and opportunities for Australia in the domestic implementation of the SDG;
- The costs to the Australia through their failure to embrace the SDGs (as outlined above) will be a loss of significant and life sustaining resources that the country relies on eg water, farm land, farmers, increased pollution and irreversible contribution directly to climate change.
- c) what governance structures and accountability measures are required at the national, state and local levels of government to ensure an integrated approach to implementing the SDG that is both meaningful and achieves real outcomes;
- implementation of federal and state based human rights governance must be adopted immediately
 - removal of unfair and unprecedented political access by fossil fuel companies including financial contributions
 - immediate implementation of a federal independent commission against corruption
 - addressing the revolving door between politics, lobbyists and the industry
<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/csg-lobbyists-untangling-web-influence-peddlers/>

We urge the Committee to address the concerns outlined above .

Yours sincerely,
Shay Dougall