

Petition No: 023-14
Dept. Ref: MC15/349

TABLED BY LEADER 27/5/15
[Signature]

Tabled by
Hon. V. Goachin MLC
27/5/15

Response to Petition

TITLE OF PETITION: PERMANENT BAN ON FRACKING IN TASMANIA

The petitions of the undersigned Citizens of Tasmania draw attention to the House with a request to extend the current moratorium and to also legislate a permanent prohibition on exploration and/or extraction licences for mining operations involving fracking. The signatories have concerns that fracking may:

1. pose a significant risk to Tasmania's food security;
2. use vast quantities of water;
3. pose a potential contamination risk to groundwater and surface waterways;
4. pollute the air;
5. arouse community division and;
6. distort property values.

Your petitioners humbly pray that the House of Assembly:

1. extend the current moratorium and;
2. legislate a permanent prohibition on exploration and/or extraction licences for mining operations, involving fracking.

Government's Position:

Upon coming to Government the Hodgman Liberal Government introduced a twelve month moratorium on hydraulic fracture stimulation (fracking) for hydrocarbon resources, to enable a review of the practice in the Tasmanian context to be completed. The moratorium was in place until March 2015 when the results of the review led the Government to conclude that it would be prudent to take a considered approach in relation to the potential use of fracking for hydrocarbons in Tasmania. As a result the Government have implemented a new moratorium on the use of fracking for hydrocarbons for the purpose of hydrocarbon resource recovery, for a further five years, until March 2020.

Many of the concerns expressed in the petition relate to water use, the potential for groundwater contamination, air pollution, conflicting agricultural interests and the robustness of current technologies used in the drilling and completion of wells.

It is only at this time, after all the facts are at hand will the Government make any further decisions relating to the use of fracking for hydrocarbon resources in Tasmania.



Paul Harriss MP
Minister for Resources

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