



GARY HIGGINS
OPPOSITION LEADER

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For immediate release

Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory

The Opposition welcomes today's final report of the *Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory*.

The comprehensive body of work by Justice Pepper reinforces the opportunity that a well-regulated onshore gas industry presents to the Northern Territory.

Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins, said that the final report found that any risks associated with onshore gas development and fracking can be managed by effective regulation and that it is now time for the Labor government to press ahead with lifting its moratorium.

"On the back of a 20 month delay, we would expect that exploration activity would commence this upcoming dry season.

"We would be concerned if the Territory government did anything to the contrary.

"The Opposition urges the Labor government to lift the moratorium and kick start the Territory's economy with a well-regulated on shore shale gas industry.

"The report also confirms that shale gas development would have significant economic and employment benefits for the Northern Territory.

"The Opposition wants the Territory to prosper, as can be achieved with certainty of private investment and jobs in a well regulated industry.

"The report has debunked many of the scare campaigns around this issue and it is now imperative that the Labor government makes a decision to lift its moratorium," said Mr Higgins.

ENDS

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