



Michael Berkman MP
For Maiwar ▲

30 September 2020

Riley Rocco
Coordinator, Western Rivers Alliance
Via email: riley@outbackqueensland.org.au

Protecting the Channel Country

Dear Riley,

Thank you for your letter of 10 September 2020, asking for the Queensland Greens' public support for strengthening legislation to ensure better protection for the Channel Country's rivers and floodplains.

As spokesperson for the Queensland Greens, I am pleased to offer my support.

The Greens are vehemently opposed to the expansion of fracking and coal seam and unconventional gas, particularly the threat of industrial shale gas extraction in the Channel Country.

To see more of our policies regarding Mining and Natural Resources, please feel free to check out our [federal](#) and [state](#) mining policy pages. In particular we want:

No new fracking or unconventional gas, including coal seam, shale or tight gas, shale oil or underground coal gasification developments, given the short and long-term risks to our water, land, communities, the climate, food production and marine areas.

It is a travesty that a proposal to frack for unconventional gas is even being considered, considering what we know about the significant short and long term risks posed to our waterways, aquifers, agriculture and land.

Like you, I was incredibly disappointed to hear that just before Christmas in 2019, the State Labor government indicated that they might allow gasfields in the Channel Country. That would be a massive betrayal of their promises in two State elections in 2015 and 2017, and I've been [keeping this up to the government](#) during my term in parliament.

As you would know, on 14 May 2020, I tabled a report in state parliament on the risks from and likely impacts of the expansion of the gas fracking industry in the Lake Eyre Basin. The Labor government had not liked the report's conclusions, and had tried to hide the report using a loophole in Right to Information laws.

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In my capacity as MP for Maiwar, I have been lucky enough to meet with some supporters of your Alliance. I promise to keep up the pressure on both the state Labor government and the LNP opposition to oppose any more fracking anywhere in Queensland.

Maybe it shouldn't be a surprise, since both Labor and the LNP take big donations from gas and fracking companies. I strongly believe the big parties will never change until they feel pressure from ordinary people, shifting their votes and making their voices heard.

To break our dependence on damaging fossil fuels, including unconventional gas and fracking, Queensland needs to transition as fast as possible to 100% renewable energy, including solar, wind, pumped hydro storage and clean hydrogen. The Greens want that new industry to be publicly and community-owned, to make sure everyone shares in the benefits of clean energy:

<https://greens.org.au/qld/renewables>.

Renewable energy is a key part of our election platform for the 2020 State Election, online at:

<https://greens.org.au/qld/plan>. Our long-standing broader policy platform is here:

<https://greens.org.au/qld/policies>.

I hope this information assists. Please do not hesitate to contact my office on 07 3737 4100 if you would like to discuss this matter in more detail.

Kind regards,



Michael Berkman MP