

Paul Kirby

Minister for Primary Industry and Resources



Media Release

Protecting Our Environment, Creating Jobs: No-Go Zones Released

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The Territory Labor Government will keep almost half of the Territory free from hydraulic fracturing exploration or production activities as part of its commitment to protect our natural environment and create jobs.

As part of recommendations from the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory, areas exempt from petroleum activity, called no-go zones, will cover 48.44 per cent (654,900km²) of the Territory.

The Inquiry determined, through its research and consultation, there should be areas that are off limits to any petroleum exploration or production activities, due to these areas' unique values and their important role in providing environmental, social, health and cultural benefits to surrounding communities.

In identifying these areas the Territory Government has taken into consideration a number of existing factors such as granted exploration permits, Aboriginal Land and current land use.

The Territory Government will consult with Traditional Owners through the relevant Land Councils to determine whether or not they would like to declare areas within Aboriginal Land as reserve blocks.

By consulting we are ensuring that these areas not only meet the recommendations of the Inquiry, but they also meet the expectations of Territorians.

Territorians can now have their say on the proposed areas to be declared a reserved block via the website haveyoursay.nt.gov.au

Quotes from Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, Paul Kirby:

"The Territory Government has a clear plan to protect our environment, create local jobs and ensure the actions of Government and industry are transparent and accountable."

"Our Government respects the rights of Traditional Owners under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act to determine what activity occurs on their land.

"We are delivering stronger regulation and at the same time creating certainty for companies planning for onshore gas exploration this dry season."

Media Contact: Cameron Angus 0404 021 192

[Proposed No-Go Zones Consultation Paper](#) (pdf 12 mb)