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TO FRACK OR NOT TO FRACK – THAT IS A QUESTION FOR THE EPA

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says with exploration wells for shale oil and gas being drilled in the Georgina Basin of the NT by PetroFrontier, he would support the Environmental Protection Agency taking up the issue that the Northern Territory Cattleman’s Association has raised – a review of the Petroleum and Water Act.

Gerry says he can see the enormous potential for a shale oil and gas industry in the NT, but that doesn’t mean other industry groups and the public should be ignored.

He says while the exploration process in the NT may be different than in other parts of Australia and only at a early stage, it would be appropriate for the independent EPA to investigate and report on, how safe the process is to the environment especially ground water, and whether existing acts and regulations are sufficiently robust to cover this type of exploration and development.

Gerry says that using the EPA in this role would allow an independent assessment of fracking and any acts and regulations that covered fracking which would be a benefit to industries involved, industries potentially affected, and a basis for educated comment by local communities and the public in general.

Gerry says that whilst the EPA can investigate without direction from the Minister, it would be good to see the Chief Minister, as Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment also support an EPA investigation.

Cessi foro gallinarum sed surgo