

Tim Kelly
South Australia

Friday January 15, 2010

Mr David Borthwick AO PSM
Montara Commission of Inquiry
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Dear Mr Borthwick

**RE: MONTARA WELL HEAD PLATFORM UNCONTROLLED HYDROCARBON
RELEASE -Environmental impacts and whether any further measures are
warranted.**

I regret that this submission/question to the Commission of Inquiry has not been provided earlier.

In following the incident I am aware that the release of hydrocarbons involved both oil and gas. Most of the concerns have focussed on the impacts of the oil on the marine environment, yet the methane released from this leak is a harmful greenhouse gas that is typically regarded to have a global warming potential around 21 times greater than carbon dioxide.

I have seen no estimate of the volume or proportions of methane and other gases that were released during this incident and was hoping that this matter could be addressed as a part of the inquiry so that the full extent of all environmental impacts is described. Naturally It would be useful for an estimate of escaped methane to be presented in the units of tonnes of equivalent carbon dioxide (Tonnes CO₂-e)

Yours Sincerely

Tim Kelly
Private Citizen