

Dr. David Borthwick
Montara Inquiry
P.O. Box 1564
Canberra 2601

16 December 2009

**RE: Submission to The Commission of Inquiry – Montara Well Head Platform
Uncontrolled Hydrocarbon Release**

I strongly believe there should be no further expansion of the petroleum industry on the North-West shelf of Australia's Kimberley region until such time as:

1. A network of marine parks with large sanctuaries is established in the Kimberley region to serve as protection from events like the West Atlas oil spill (Term of Reference 10);
2. It can be shown that proposals for expansion of the North-West petroleum industry are fully compliant with binding national climate change policies and targets (Term of Reference 11);
3. Faster response time mechanisms and improved oil spill procedures are developed and adopted – with strong independent compliance enforcement. (Term of Reference 8)

I also believe that those responsible for the current environmental disaster should be held accountable to the full extent of applicable Australian and international law.

Yours Sincerely,

Ethan Burns
B Eng Env (Hons)
Environmental Engineer