

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

14th December 2009

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

The Montara incident has demonstrated the danger to the environment posed by offshore petroleum operations, and has highlighted the inability of the petroleum industry to adequately deal with serious incidents such as this. Our marine environment deserves strong protection from the risk of serious damage from oil spills.

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)

Yours Sincerely,

Nicholas Fitzgerald
Conservation Scientist