

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**

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)
4. There should be at least a pretence of preparedness in case of emergency.
5. Very very large sums of money should be put up as a bond by companies engaging in this type of enterprise so that the Govt. can use that bond money to act immediately instead of waiting several weeks for the company to find the cheapest option available.

It is apparent that the company involved had no understanding of or interest in the true value of the area it was attempting to mine. I think they should not be allowed to participate in any more development of this nature and should basically be driven out of the business after paying massive fines.

Yours Sincerely,
Harold
Your Name /Position
HD Florence BA. Bed., Graduate Studies
Guidance Officer Retired