

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)

By protecting the Kimberley, you are protecting one of Australia's precious natural icons. It has already been damaged by the massive 23 trillion liter oil spill that took over 70 days to clean up. Irreversible damage has been done already; further oil spills must be avoided at all costs to insure the Kimberley stays as beautiful as it is today.

Yours Sincerely,

Aleisha Kahn
Student and concerned citizen