

The Commissioner,  
Montara Inquiry,  
P.O. Box 1564,  
Canberra,  
2601.

17th December, 2009.

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

Dear Commissioner,

As a concerned citizen, a member of The Wilderness Society, and as someone who has briefly visited the Australia's North West coast, namely the Ningallo Reef, I present the following for the Commission's consideration:

A Because it is clear that there have been inadequate and ineffective regulatory and operational regimes in place (ToR 2, 4, 5 & 6), I submit that the Commission makes recommendations to all concerned in the industry and its regulators which emphasise that prevention is better than cure. (ToR 8 & 11).

Rights and responsibilities

Until such time as much stricter procedural, technical and engineering standards are implemented, there can be little public confidence in the gas and petroleum industry and its ability to exploit such resources and to look after the immediate environment. (ToR 9).

B Not business as usual.

Given the world energy crisis in terms of climate and human activity, I submit that the Commission recommends that any licences for expansion of seabed mining activity in the North West are revoked or suspended and that alternate forms of business are further investigated by Governments, organizations, companies and stakeholders. (ToR 7, 9 & 10)

C Alternate forms of business require a greater commitment to marine parks and to conservation areas to which smaller companies and operators are better suited, eg tourism. To this end, I submit that the Commission makes recommendations to Government which include such possibilities. (ToR 11)

Yours Sincerely,  
James Kesteven.