

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

22 December 2009

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

As a former resident of the Kimberley region 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)

In addition, I am extremely concerned that any organization can allow up to 20 million litres of toxic material to flow into the ocean unabated for a period of 10 weeks. This is totally unacceptable and if someone was to illegally dump a fraction of that waste into the ocean there would be a major outcry from all sectors including industry, government and the general public. Not only should PTTEP be fined and ordered to pay the full cost of the clean up, this disaster has also proved that PTTEP does not have the capability to avert disasters within a reasonable time period. Consequently its license to operate should be revoked immediately.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Maughan