

Dr. David Borthwick
Montara Inquiry
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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)

I believe that it is totally unacceptable to consider expanding mining in this region when the existing rigs cannot be operated safely. It is alarming that 23 million of oil leaked between August and November this year. This is not an industry we should be expanding in the wake of climate change and the need to reduce the use of fossil fuels and other non renewable resources.

Yours Sincerely,

Marguerite Pettit

Research Analyst