

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)

On a personal note, time and time again, decisions have been made that favor the interests of multinational fossil fuel companies rather than fragile ecosystems which could, if managed sustainably, bring in valuable tourist dollars. It is my desire to dive off Ningaloo Reef some time in the near future with whale sharks. Once a disaster like West Atlas has occurred, the results are long term and sometimes irreparable environmentally. I recently saw a program on the long term repercussions of the Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska and was horrified to learn that the herring industry has *never* recovered after 20 years and oil is still being discovered digging only one to two feet under the surface of parts of the coastline nearby the disaster area. Largely because Exxon Mobil would not heed warnings to spend money double hulling their tankers. Please take every possible precaution, including those above, to ensure that in the future there are no more West Atlases, and speedier and more effective clean up techniques available.

Yours Sincerely,  
Ms Amanda Rosenfeld