

Dr. David Borthwick  
Montara Inquiry  
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**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);

I am deeply concerned about the lack of protection of our pristine Kimberley marine waters, areas which are of national and global significance and which rank as outstanding among the marine wildernesses of the planet. There must be some places on our planet that remain key domains and habitats for the wild creatures. I believe, along with a great number of Australians that the Kimberley is such an area.

Therefore other areas that have been developed already on the western coast, and have been suggested as alternatives, should be the places where new developments take place, not in important Kimberley coastal waters and important biodiversity centres.

- 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);

I submit government resources should currently be directed to enlarging renewables throughout the land, particularly solar. I am therefore concerned about the impact of developing a huge new petroleum industry on Australia's moral and global responsibility in reducing carbon emissions for the prevention of further climate change.

- 3 Faster response time mechanisms and improved oil spill procedures are developed and adopted – with strong independent compliance enforcement. (Term of Reference 8)

With the recent large oil rig spill we have a clear message that coasts such as the Kimberley and others such as those where indigenous art and artefacts are present, could be devastated by such occurrences and should therefore be protected in marine parks and sanctuaries. The failure of the petroleum industry to adequately prevent and then address Australia's worst rig oil spill makes it clear that the wise action is not to allow the developments in these areas

Yours sincerely  
G. Ryan