

Dr. David Borthwick
Montara Inquiry
P.O. Box 1564
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16th December 2009

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

The Kimberley oil spill was a tragedy on all levels. It not only showed very clearly how little we respect and appreciate the immense beauty of our natural environment, but it exposed a reckless disregard for all life. Infact it seems every time I turn the news on, there has been yet another oil spill in a pristine and fragile environment causing untold damage to our already threatened eco-systems and marine life. Why do they continue to occur? I sincerely hope these are accidents and not an attempt to affect oil prices. The consequences of this catastrophe are inconceivable at this time in our history. On behalf of the Australian public and all concerned world citizens, I demand immediate action taken to outlaw unsafe and unethical practices within the resources industry and 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)

The time moral and responsible management of resources is well and truly overdue. I urge you to act now and be on the right side of history.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Brendan Shoebridge