

Dr. David Borthwick
Montara Inquiry
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21st December 2009

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

I write with deep concern about the conservation of marine life on the North-West shelf of Australia's Kimberley region. This pristine area must be fully protected from future disasters like the 2009 Kimberley Oil Spill. This area is recognised as a globally significant area of marine wilderness and deserves the world's best protection into the future.

Australia has a responsibility to the planet to develop sustainable industry which contributes to reducing carbon emissions and other toxic pollutants into our atmosphere, earth and oceans. I watched with horror as the Kimberley Oil Spill story emerged in the press and waited weeks to hear that the spill had been plugged. How can such a pollution disaster be allowed to occur?

Such a disaster as this should never occur again. Corporations must be bound by legally enforceable procedures to prevent these polluting spills and to hasten the remedial action required to contain the spill damage to a minimum. Furthermore, the future establishment of oil rigs in the area should be prevented until extensive marine sanctuaries are provided to protect the precious marine life of Australia's west coast.

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 has long passed for prevarication. Our governments must act to preserve the integrity of our natural environments and corporations must operate within moral and ethical frameworks to prevent the destruction of the natural world.

Profits made over and above the planet is no longer fashionable or desirable.
Invest in renewable energy and reduce global warming.

Yours Sincerely,

Meredith Stanton
(individual)