

Dr Tom Hatton,
Chair Independent Science Panel
Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation
Locked Bag 33
Cloisters Square
PERTH WA 6850

Dear Sir,

I am a Kimberley resident and I SUPPORT hydraulic fracturing.

My name is Kurt Finger and I am a part owner of Debessa Station, about 180km north east of Broome.

As a pastoralist in the Kimberley I have an interest in the current debate on the merits of hydraulic fracturing for the extraction of oil or gas and its effect on the environment. In particular I am interested in water as I require it to graze my cattle. After informing myself of the science of hydraulic fracturing I am comfortable with the process and welcome it in the Kimberley.

Please see my points below about community impacts in support of hydraulic fracturing.

GAS RESOURCES IN THE KIMBERLEY

It is my understanding that the estimated amount of gas in the Canning Basin could sustain an industry for up to 40 years.

In such a remote region with limited employment opportunities and industry, it would irresponsible for the inquiry to recommend and the state government to ban a process that could extract the tight gas that could sustain an industry for up to 40 years, which would create local employment and commercial opportunities.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

SOCIAL LICENCE

The oil and gas industry is welcome in the Kimberley and has contributed more to the region than environmental activists ever will.

The oil and gas industry has a social licence, whereas the activists trying to ban hydraulic fracturing are constantly misleading the public and have a negative impact on the livelihoods of local people do not. The activists do not have a social licence and should be the ones who are being investigated.

It is my understanding that the amount of gas that is present in the Canning Basin could sustain a 40 year industry. This would provide a significant amount of long term jobs that would employ residents in an area where well paying, stable jobs are scarce.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The oil and gas industry sponsors a number of community events in remote locations that would otherwise not occur without the support of the industry. These include the Fitzroy Rodeo, Kimberly Photographic Awards, Derby Art Prize and Noonkanbah Rodeo. These events are extremely important when you live in a remote area.

The Yungngora people in Noonkanbah community have had their experts advise on the risks of hydraulic fracturing and have welcomed the technique to occur within the areas that they hold native title (see attached letter). They have recognized that they need jobs and that economic benefits come from having an industry operate in their area.

The amenity and enjoyment of the areas where gas exploration occurs will not be affected. The area where hydraulic fracturing could occur is very remote and occurs in flat, featureless areas. These areas have very limited tourism potential as they are remote, do not have easy access, and are very hot so they will not affect the tourism industry. As these areas are remote they do not have any residential dwellings nearby and will not affect people living in the area.

Thank you for your time

Kurt Finger

11 September 2015

The following is a joint statement released today by Yungngora Chairwoman, Caroline Mulligan and Koolkarriya Committee Chairman, Ronnie Lormada.

We the Yungngora People are the recognized Native Title holders for Noonkanbah Station. Our lands around Noonkanbah have been our traditional lands for many thousands of years.

Buru Energy has recently completed their fracking operation on our country. We allowed this to happen after speaking to many experts about the effect of this activity on our country and the environment. Our experts looked at Buru's plans and let us know this is a safe activity if it is done properly. We trust Buru to do this properly.

"My hope and dream for the community and for the people as well is mainly getting young people involved in the workforce, getting them involved in looking after their country and with Buru it has been a really strong start with us and for the future."

"It has been great to see our young people work closely with Buru and we have that connection."

The following is a statement from Thomas Skinner, Chairman of the Yungngora native title corporation.

We are the new generation of Aboriginal owners that speak for our country and have the support of our old people. We have set up Koolkarriya as a business council that represents the seven clan groups of our Traditional Lands. The council really connects with Buru Energy so that we can have future work and opportunity for our young people.

The reason we selected the people on the business council is so that they can feed back to their own people that they can have their own business going as well. If Buru Energy get cranked up, that is really good for us.

We really want to keep this place going. We want to keep our young people safe from alcohol and the new drugs coming into the Kimberley. This is what is killing our people. Mining is giving us job opportunities to work on our own land. We need training and job opportunities for our kids future.

A mining company like Buru Energy come in here, they give opportunity and work. We want this.

Alcohol and drugs is killing our people – not mining or oil and gas.

WE NEED THESE NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

We welcome Buru.



Yungngora
ASSOCIATION INC