

## **Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation in WA Fitzroy Crossing Public Meeting – 12 April 2018**

### **1. INTERESTS REPRESENTED**

- Community

### **2. SCOPE OF DISCUSSION / ISSUES TO ADDRESS**

- a) Scientific analysis of risks: environmental, health, agricultural, heritage and community.
- b) Describe regulatory mechanisms that may be employed to mitigate or minimise risks to an appropriate level.

### **3. CONCERNS / RISKS**

#### **3.1 Chemicals**

- Transport of chemicals into country and their storage; what is impact of sunlight on chemicals
- What testing of chemicals before bringing in and using
- How much roundup are they going to use on one well
- What are effects of chemicals, especially in large quantities
- Concerned about chemicals spilling from ponds
- Concerned about long-term effects of chemicals on country

#### **3.2 Regulation/monitoring**

- Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) not present when Yulleroo was drilled; should have taken 42 days but it took 102 days; drillers got sacked for not drilling well properly; drilled in 2008 and fracked in 2010; DMP did not come out and inspect; no problem with regulations but need enforcers
- No Yawuru people there watching how they do their water testing; petroleum company take readings and then send to their labs; Yawuru can't test it as they can't get in
- Inspections seem to be more about security (against people) than proper purpose
- Level of trust not there yet; want to see for themselves

#### **3.3 Water quantity and quality**

- Yawuru was told that for water to get from Yulleroo to Broome would take 35,000 years; Traditional Owner agrees about the direction of the water, but not the timescale
- Concerned that an enormous amount of water will be used for fracking; Water guy not coming up with facts

### **3.4 Human health**

- Health impacts of chemicals (deformity)

### **3.5 Environmental health**

- Concern about impact of leaking ponds on environment
- Environmental impacts of chemicals, on animals and country
- Found dead animals in flowback pits, eg goannas, dingoes, get underneath the fence; animals found were badly decomposed and petroleum company were supposed to check their wells every day; this tells Yawuru that the petroleum company haven't been there
- Concerned that fire signs now include a catastrophic criterion; Didn't have catastrophic before fracking
- Life cycle environmental/cultural impact from seismic activities

### **3.6 Country/community/amenity**

#### **Amenity**

- Can see the scarring of the country which will stay there for 12/13 years
- Can see the road from the station track; it has been turned into an industrial road and denies animals and Yawuru access from country

#### **Sense of place/community/jobs**

- 35 people dismantled the broken valve and replaced it, but none were Yawuru people

### **3.7 Information/communication issues**

- Need to know more details, e.g. more clarity around water usage; transparency on usage, and record of actual chemical use
- Petroleum company well leak at Yulleroo 2 - concern about how they behaved and lack of information about results of tests provided to Yawuru Traditional Owners; the petroleum company did not consult Yawuru about access through the gate to the well for employees, TV crews
- Petroleum company tests water but don't let Yawuru say what they think; requests from Yawuru falling on deaf ears;

- World's best practice is to be transparent; petroleum company is not transparent
- Concerns that there is room to mislead Yawuru by how they behave
- Informed consent - Rangers go to so many meetings and don't have the understanding of what happened due to literacy and numeracy; need to appreciate that English is some stakeholders' 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> language; need to be able to be understood by the community; need to give time to make sure people understand
- "Cultural intelligence"

#### **4. Regulatory considerations; What regulatory mechanisms may be employed to mitigate or minimise risks to an acceptable level?**

##### **4.1 Regulation framework**

- Want enforcement of regulations; there is a role for an enforcer as currently it's just in good faith
- Management of flow-back ponds should be world's best practice

##### **4.2 Land access**

- Want independent access, to see 'everyday' activities
- Traditional Owners want to accompany petroleum company representatives who access wells to see what they are doing and make sure it is done right, such as going round a tree
- Yawuru can't get closer than 150 m to petroleum company well, so can't smell if there is a problem or see what animals are going in there

##### **4.3 Modelling, baseline studies, monitoring, analysis and public reporting**

- Want independent monitoring of fracking wells and monitoring wells, and want Yawuru people to accompany monitors and take their own readings
- Want comprehensive baseline research on that land (where seismic lines will go and where wells will go) to find out what is vulnerable and what needs protecting
- Baseline monitoring should be done and more detailed research done
- Regular (once a week), public and timely recording and reporting of well test results
- Water use should be monitored with a tamper-proof meter
- Want long-term monitoring, transparent reporting of monitoring data so confidence in results

##### **4.4 Chemicals**

- Transport chemicals in sealed bags
- Safe storage of chemicals

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