

Dear Panel

I am a Kimberley resident and have lived in Broome for all my life - born in 1997. I would like to make the following points in support of hydraulic fracturing:

- Hydraulic fracturing has been shown to be safe and of low risk to the environment by a number of inquiries in Australia and overseas. This includes a Parliamentary Inquiry undertaken in Western Australia only a couple of years ago.
- The Kimberley has a long history of oil and gas activity. Wells have been drilled in the Kimberley since the 1920's and the industry has been an important contributor to the region for almost 100 years.
- In 2014 NBY, the representatives of the Yawuru native title holders in Broome, commissioned an independent expert report into fracking, which is publicly available. The report concluded that "The overall findings that the impacts and risks associated with down-hole chemicals are limited (and that Buru Energy's controls are sufficiently protective) are reasonable and appropriate" and "Human exposures to the chemical additives, particularly for community members away from the occupational setting where the hydraulic fracturing is being conducted, are limited and would not be expected to produce adverse health impacts."
- In 2015 the Yungngora Association (the representatives of the native title holders around the Noonkanbah community) released a press release in support of fracking. After consulting with experts the community was supportive of fracking and the benefits the community would receive through employment and commercial opportunities. Fracking would benefit the entire west Kimberley as it would create employment and commercial opportunities for everyone living here.
- The hydraulic fracturing process has been utilised near Broome in recent history. This occurred around 30km(?) from the nearest residential property. There was no impact to the environment, nor was it noticed by the residents in the region or Broome.
- The areas where oil and gas exploration occur in the Kimberley are extremely remote and are not areas that are utilised by tourists or locals. The area is hot and dry and the limited development impact that comes from onshore oil production will not impact on the existing or future tourism potential of the Kimberley.
- The majority of people opposed to fracking in the Kimberley are not Kimberley residents but are activists from out of town. They do not represent the views of us in the Kimberley yet their activism has a significant impact on my livelihood and the future employment opportunities of my children and the youth of the region.
- The Kimberley has the highest unemployment rate in Western Australia and faces significant social challenges, many of which will take decades to address. A lot of these social issues are best addressed by providing people with meaningful employment. Job creation needs to occur across a number of sectors including agriculture, tourism and resources. The oil and gas industry will be an important contributor to providing jobs to people.

Thanks for your time

Eric Locke