

Dear Panel Members.

SUBMISSION IN SUPPORT OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

My name is Kelly Locke. I am a Broome resident and I support hydraulic fracture stimulation.

Future opportunities

I was born in Broome, my parents live and have invested here. It is my desire to continue living up here. Although I am employed and enjoy my job, many of my friends have had to leave town to seek opportunities. Broome is an isolated town with limited opportunities. It is expensive to travel to have the same experiences as my friends in Perth, yet I think it is important to be able to experience what our cities have to offer.

When you are in Broome I encourage you to drive around and witness first-hand the social issues that occurs in Broome. There is high unemployment and significant social dysfunction. Without job opportunities and investment in the local economy the social issues in the Kimberley will only get worse.

Perth based activists have been successful in stirring up fear and division about the resources industry. They enjoy the privileges of living in a well serviced city with abundant opportunities, and are often funded by overseas donors. I pay taxes, they do not. They are subsidised by the Australian taxpayer to protest against lawful activities. The resources industry pays royalties to State of Western Australia which pays for the state to run, and also pays taxes to the federal government for the country to run.

I work in the resources industry and experience first-hand what a highly regulated industry it is. There are significant penalties for breaching regulations, not just for the company but also potentially for management.

So despite the industry paying royalties and taxes, employing thousands of people in Western Australia, I am completely bewildered why these activist groups are able to come to a town to cause division, spread misinformation about the resources industry and block lawful activities, without suffering any consequences whatsoever. I think the inquiry needs to recognise that it is not hydraulic fracturing that causes negative community impacts, it is the duplicitous green groups who have a net negative impact on our community.

Water

You may be aware that the Kimberley has received a huge amount of rainfall so far this wet season. Although this is an unusual amount, the rainfall that is regularly received is still significant.

Rainfall in the Kimberley is 640mm per year on average. Given that a total of 640mm on 1 square kilometre is 640 ML litres of rain the Canning Basin aquifer recharge from annual rainfall is 827,000 ML a year.

Current consumption in the Kimberley is estimated to be around 4% of the annual sustainable yield of water. This leaves plenty of water for other usage without depleting this important ant resource.

Social Licence

I disagree with the concept of social licence being required as a means for the government to green light projects. It is my observation and experience that a social licence is more often than not demanded by activist groups who have not contributed to the development of a community and are generally using this as a strategy to prevent development. These groups do not have a social licence even though they are demanding one from others.

Irrespective of this, the oil and gas industry are welcome in Broome and have had a long history of contributing to the town. Onshore oil and gas exploration in the Kimberley has been quietly occurring for decades, but more recently has become more prominent and in the public eye. In addition to providing employment to local people they support the economy of Broome through using local businesses and paying Shire rates. Without the support of the oil and gas industry most of Broome's more prominent events would not occur as they are often sponsored by the industry.

Local project

To understand the science of hydraulic fracturing requires appropriate qualifications, and it is best left to people with experience and expertise related to the subject matter, not self appointed people with no experience. I do note however that there have been a number of inquiries around Australia and the world, which have all concluded that fracking can be done safely. The local native title holders engaged independent peer review specialists to undertake a review of Buru Energy's proposed 2014 hydraulic fracturing project close to Broome.

The expert panel 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.
- 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.

A gas industry operating onshore in the Kimberley has the potential to benefit all people living in the region. I would like the Inquiry members to see the Kimberley, the vast distances, the small population and the social issues up here. We need opportunities up here, and I would be disappointed if the Inquiry made recommendations that would stop a safe industry from being established because of the noise and fear generated by loud activists.

Yours sincerely

Kelly Locke