

Dear Panel

Thank you for the invitation to the hearing at Broome recently.

I am a Broome community member and have lived here for 42 years, been a shire councillor for 13 years and life member of the Broome Sports Association and have a sports pavilion named after me .

I am disappointed ,what has happened in the past regarding Woodside and James Prices Point gas hub . the Greens were paying , protesters to fly from Melbourne / Sydney to BROOME to protest . Mine and yours tax money. They are all hipocryts , living in bushland , using gas lanterns , gas bbq burners , etc.... They didn't stay for the hot , wet season , but returned home to their electricity run by gas turbines , and using their gas stoves

Unfortunately they are the minority , but have the loudest voice , and most of them don't even know any details what they are protesting about .

They should practice what they preach , and when they were in Broome , should have cooked and light etc. with wood , and then planted trees to replace the wood they were cutting down.

They don't realise what damage they have done to the Broome Community in their paid holiday actions.

I sat with 2 Environs Kimberley people , 1 being Martin whom was totally against fracking. Having done water bores out at nearly all the locations mentioned , i know the water table depths , country side etc... and i totally believe that there is no problem with fracking , especially after seeing Mr Eric Stielberg from Buru Energy drinking the fracking fluid used in fracking . The water level is aprox. 160 – 180 metres down in most areas east of Broome , fracking takes place aprox 2 ½ - 3 ½ klms down .

I can not see a problem with fracking , because of the stringent rules and regulations that is imposed on fracking , and no company would like to endanger there business in relation to fracking.

I support and encourage hydraulic fracturing.

I have always been involved in community organisations and recognise the importance of having community members having meaningful employment. I welcome any industry that will provide employment and benefits to the community.

Green activists have caused division within Broome for no other reason than their own causes which are not supported by science. They have no regard for regional economies or the relationships between community members. They have no social licence and should be held to account and regulated for the detrimental impact that they have.

I would like to make the following points in relation to the current fracking inquiry:

## **Positive Impact to the Community**

The oil and gas operators have been good corporate citizens to the region. They use many local goods and services, provide training and long-term jobs to locals, and sponsors events that make living here enjoyable.

The Kimberley has the highest unemployment rate in Western Australia. Meaningful, long term employment in the Kimberley is vital to ensuring the unemployment rate and social issues do not become worse. Accordingly any company that wants to operate in the region should be supported rather than hindered.

Typical of realities of a small town, Broome is reliant on a few industries to sustain it economically. A hiccup in one of these industries has a significant follow on effect to local employment and businesses so it would be sad if the State Government banned a process that would lead to a 40-year industry operating in the region.

## **Fracking is safe**

Hydraulic fracturing has been shown to be safe and of low risk to the environment by a number of inquiries in Australia and overseas. I have made efforts to inform myself of the process of hydraulic fracturing and am confident in the process not to harm the local environment.

In 2014 the Yawuru native title holders in Broome had experts review Buru Energy's proposed tight gas program. This report is available on their website. The report stated 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. See attached letter.

## **An inquiry into green activist groups should occur**

Hydraulic fracturing can have a positive community impact, 'environmental' activists have a negative impact on communities.

The concerns that some residents may have about hydraulic fracking comes from green activist groups. These groups will say and do anything to manipulate the public. A recent example of this is Lock the Gate's allegation to the Northern Territory's Scientific Inquiry into Fracking where Lock the Gate claimed that there a cover up of information by Origin

Energy as part of the NT Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing. This was found to be completely false and the Inquiry demanded an apology. See attached submissions to the Inquiry.

These activist groups are making it extremely difficult for many companies, big and small, to operate near Broome. Their actions have a deterrent effect on investment and without a viable economy the town is going to suffer.

These activist groups usually have charitable status so they do not pay tax, their supporters receive tax deductions for their donations, and state and federal governments provide grants which sustain these groups who then hinder and prevent legitimate resource projects from occurring. These groups do not suffer consequences for making misleading claims that cause community angst. They come into small towns, create unnecessary angst about proposed resource activities, and then leave once projects have failed. Meanwhile their donors continue to

Resource projects are major employers and investors in regional areas, whereas the activist groups are not. Resource companies are responsible citizens and have a social licence, green activist groups do not sustain communities and do not have a social licence to operate.

The inquiry should make a recommendation to the State government that activist groups who make misleading statements and unnecessarily cause delays to projects that would support regional economies should have their charitable status removed and should not receive any of government funding.

Glenn Medlend

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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

# SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY INTO HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



[REDACTED]  
Lock the Gate Alliance

Dear [REDACTED]

## RE: ALLEGATIONS MADE BY LOCK THE GATE

I refer to your correspondence, on behalf of Lock the Gate Alliance (**Lock the Gate**), to the *Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing of Unconventional Reservoirs in the Northern Territory (the Inquiry)*, dated "9 February 2017" (sic).

Regrettably the Inquiry is unable to accommodate your request to phone-in and address the Panel during the public hearings in Tennant Creek.

As indicated by the Panel on 6 February 2018 during the public hearings in Darwin, the Panel does not accept that there was "a cover up of information by Origin Energy (**Origin**) as part of the NT Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing". Having regard to the chronology of events outlined by me on that day – especially the fact that both diagrams the subject of your letter have been in the public domain since 25 May 2017, the explanation given by Dr David Close on behalf of Origin, the purpose of the provision of the diagrams and what each sought to depict, the Inquiry does not intend to pursue the matter further.

In your letter you again impute a mischievous intention to the presentation and provision of the two diagrams. At no point has "incorrect information" been provided to the Inquiry. Moreover, and contrary to your assertion, the Panel and the public, including Lock the Gate, have had access "to accurate unedited versions of evidence" since at least 25 May 2017.

Given the scandalous nature of your allegations against Origin and the Inquiry which have now been proven to be wholly incorrect, it remains a matter of considerable concern that no apology has been proffered by you, on behalf of Lock the Gate, to Origin or the Inquiry. Failure to do so has the very real effect of impugning the credibility of yourself and Lock the Gate.

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Please note that your letter and this response will be treated as a submission and published on the Inquiry's website.

Yours sincerely

