

WA Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing  
Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry  
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Dear Inquiry Panel.

### **Submission in support of hydraulic fracturing in the Kimberley**

I support the responsible and sustainable development of the onshore gas industry, including where hydraulic fracturing is used, especially where these activities lead to

- economic benefits to the local economy;
- local employment;
- local training; and
- support of local service providers,

providing that regulatory requirements have been received and complied with.

### **Community Impacts**

I would like the panel to note that community concern about fracking has been fuelled and encouraged by environmental activist groups rather than any particular incident involving fracking in the Kimberley. I do not approve of the fear mongering by the activists to those who disagree with their point of view.

Despite not paying tax, environmental activists are engaging in tactics which disrupt the progress of legitimate, tax paying projects. There is very little consequence for environmental charities that engage in misleading behaviour that causes community concern which I think the Panel needs to understand has a substantial impact in a remote area like the Kimberley. There are considerable social issues here and we need jobs and investment in the region. I would also like my children to have good job opportunities when they grow up.

Given the tax-free status that these environmental charitable organisations enjoy, they should be expected to comply with a higher level of behaviour, with specific consequences for breaching these expected standards. If there were serious consequences for misleading the public, I would be confident that environmental activists would quickly change their behaviour and actually do some real environmental work. It could also mean that the public could have a rational debate about fracking without the misleading and emotive claims that cause confusion and anxiety in the community.

Any organisation that has deductible gift recipient status, does not pay tax, and/or receives government grants must be held to highest level of transparency and scrutiny. The tax payer deserves to see how the organisations and individuals that they are subsidising are operating and being funded.

Please recommend to the state government that green activist groups should have their charitable status stripped if they engage in misleading and deceptive behaviour.

## **Regulation**

As shown in the Regulatory Environment Background papers, the fracking industry operates in a highly regulated environment, controlling all aspects of the industry. This is appropriate to protect the environment and ensure impacts are minimised.

## **Environment**

Having travelled around the Kimberley, I can safely say that majority of the Kimberley does not resemble the post cards sold in Broome showing pristine beaches and turquoise water. It is a huge place and the areas where oil and gas exploration has occurred are not in areas the general public or tourists would visit.

The amount of rain that the Kimberley receives is huge. More water falls on the country than is used. Industry can easily use water without affecting water in aquifers or water supplies.

Should the onshore gas industry establish itself it would contribute to wellbeing of Broome residents for decades to come. The onshore gas explorers pay shire rates which gives some relief to individual ratepayers, they pay the State government royalties which pays for infrastructure and services in the Kimberley. As is typical of many regional towns, our youth often leave to seek greater opportunities in Perth. The establishment of a long-term industry that requires well paying jobs with a variety of skill levels will assist in retaining Broome residents.

The onshore gas industry could have a huge positive impact on the residents of the Kimberley. It would be great to see a long-term project succeed in an area where there are considerable challenges. As a mother I would like to see good job opportunities available for my children when they finish school.

Sincerely

Sumita Giren