

MEDIA RELEASE**12 September 2018*****PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS TO WA FRACGING INQUIRY SHOW WIDESPREAD SUPPORT IN THE KIMBERLEY FOR GETTING ON WITH DEVELOPING ONSHORE NATURAL GAS TO PROVIDE LOCAL JOBS AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS***

- Submissions to the *Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation in WA* demonstrate that Kimberley Traditional Owners, pastoralists, and community members overwhelmingly support development of onshore natural gas
- 80% of the individual submissions to the Inquiry from the Kimberley support the onshore natural gas industry and fracking
- Support from Kimberley indigenous people was even higher, with 90% of submissions from indigenous groups and individuals being in favour of the onshore natural gas industry
- Many of the submissions in favour of the onshore natural gas industry identified a need for economic diversification of the region, were confident in the industry's current level of regulation, and had concerns about activist groups misinforming the community
- These results are in stark contrast to activists claims that there is widespread opposition to the onshore natural gas industry in the Kimberley, generated through misinformation, fake news and push polling

Once again, it appears opposition to responsible resource development in the Kimberley is being driven by a vocal minority who claim to speak on behalf of the Kimberley community. These people are seeking to take away the very real opportunities for economic development in the Kimberley that will be provided by responsible development of the region's tight and shale gas resources, particularly for Traditional Owners.

Contact:

Dr Kris Waddington

Buru Energy COO

08 9215 1800

info@buruenergy.comwww.buruenergy.com

Background

Buru Energy is a long established oil and gas explorer and producer in the Kimberley.

Buru has undertaken an active exploration program for tight gas in the Kimberley since 2006 and has conducted a number of fracking operations at the Yulleroo gas field east of Broome and at the Valhalla area on Noonkanbah pastoral station.

Buru has conducted extensive public education programs and has ensured Traditional Owners in the areas that it operates have had access to independent scientific advice. Traditional Owners have also been actively involved in environmental monitoring in relation to our onshore natural gas activities.

Monitoring results have been made publicly available and demonstrate that there has been no contamination or any other significant environmental effects from our activities.

As part of the process being undertaken by the *Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation in WA*, the Inquiry has called for scientific, fact-based submissions.

Buru Energy made a comprehensive and transparent submission to the Inquiry. As is typical, certain parts of the Buru submission were taken out of context by activist groups who attempted to mount a scare campaign through distortion, misrepresentation and exaggeration of the factual content of Buru's submission.

All of the submissions to the Inquiry have been made publicly available, and Buru has undertaken an analysis that showed that of the 391 individual submissions made public on the Inquiry webpage, 83 submissions were identified as having been made by individuals or groups from the Kimberley. Of these 83 submissions, 66 (80%) were in support of the onshore natural gas industry, 15 (18%) were opposed and two (2%) were neutral, showing a clear majority in favour of the onshore natural gas industry going ahead.

Also significant was the high level of support from landholders, including Traditional Owners and pastoralists.

Thirty of the submissions made to the Inquiry from the Kimberley were from indigenous people or groups, which is much higher than the State average. Support for the onshore natural gas industry in the Kimberley amongst indigenous people was higher than amongst the general population, with 90% of submissions from indigenous groups and individuals in favour of the industry proceeding. This strong support amongst indigenous people reflects the trust that has been developed between indigenous people and operators such as Buru Energy over recent years. Direct experience and involvement with our projects, and a willingness to accept the outcomes of the numerous independent inquiries conducted on the industry in recent years have been instrumental in this support.

Similar strong support for onshore natural gas was apparent from the Kimberley pastoral industry. Of seven submissions received from pastoralists or representative bodies, six were in favour and one was neutral. None were opposed to the onshore natural gas industry.

These are the facts.