

## Media Release

22 January 2014

### **Buru Energy informing the Broome community**

Buru Energy held its Community Information Session in Broome today as part of its extensive community consultation program.

The information session focused on informing people about Buru Energy's plans to undertake an exploration testing program to help understand the commercial potential of tight gas in the Laurel formation.

This program is referred to as the Laurel Formation Tight Gas Exploration Program, or TGS14. It is subject to regulatory approvals and community consultation.

The plan is to undertake 32 hydraulic fracture treatments in four existing vertical exploration wells – two at Yulleroo area, about 90km east of Broome and two at Valhalla/Asgard area about 320km east of Broome. The treatments will occur between 2,045m and 3,810m below the surface. Subject to results, future drilling and fracking of horizontal wells in an appraisal process may occur.

About 85 people attended the information session, with people interested to find out how Buru Energy would undertake its fracking operations.

"We fielded a range of questions from people, with many interested in knowing about future employment and business opportunities and what benefits of an expanded gas industry would be," said Buru Energy General Manager of Community Affairs Jon Ford.

"People were particularly interested in hearing about how we will protect water resources and how the well integrity will be maintained.

"We are using world's best practice for ensuring the Kimberley's water resources are protected and our operations will be very heavily monitored."

In response to claims about existing ponds causing harm to wildlife, Mr Ford said the water was not toxic in any way. It had come from either bores or rain and was not from drilling operations.

Mr Ford said some people were concerned that a European study classified the risk to water supplies from fracking as high and that a study in the US had shown dangerous levels of methane had contaminated drinking water.

"Both of these studies have been found to be outdated or incorrect. The European study is a document review study that lists the risks that need to be mitigated. The paper lists "drilling, casing and cementing" risk to groundwater as low. The paper gives a moderate-high rating for hydraulic fracturing but does not give a reason for the increase other than referring to the US EPA.

“Since the printing of this report, the EPA has investigated four reported contaminations and found all four of them to be naturally occurring and not from fracking.”

“In relation to the US report, “Fluid mitigation mechanisms due to faulty well design and/or construction: An overview and recent experiences in the Pennsylvania Marcellus Play”, this paper was written by an activist organisation and published by the same group. The author Anthony Ingraffea is the activist organisation’s creator and president. The paper goes through the publicly available Pennsylvania DEP reports and lists every non-compliant variation on a well construction as a “leak”. The document does not point out that the issues are fixed. The document does not point out that none of the issues were related to fracturing.”

Mr Ford said people at the community information session also raised concerns about the fracking fluid used for hydraulic fracturing.

“A detailed chemical risk assessment has determined that none of the chemicals to be used are classified as carcinogens or teratogens; are not persistent in the environment and do not accumulate in the environment. The fracking fluid and its breakdown products were biologically tested in a nationally accredited laboratory testing program. The tests used rainbow fish, a local species in the Fitzroy River as the test fish and concluded there was no effect on fish even at twice the concentration classified as “very slightly toxic” which is the lowest toxicity rating in Australia.

“In other words, the results indicate the fluid is non toxic.”

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