



5 September 2017

WA Government inquiry into hydraulic fracturing

Buru Energy Limited (Buru Energy) notes the announcement today by the WA Government in relation to a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in Western Australia, pending the outcome of an independent scientific inquiry.

Buru Energy will engage with the Government to ascertain what impact (if any) that the moratorium has in relation to the areas in the Canning Basin subject to the Natural Gas (Canning Basin Joint Venture) Agreement.

In any event, Buru Energy notes that this latest proposed inquiry comes less than two years after the completion of a comprehensive inquiry into fracking carried out by the WA Parliament from 2013 to 2015. This recent parliamentary inquiry spent more than two years gathering evidence, examining research and engaging with the community through public hearings and submissions. The final report tabled in November 2015 concluded that hydraulic fracturing posed negligible risk if properly regulated.

These findings were the same as numerous other independent reviews of unconventional gas activity, including, amongst others, the three independent scientific reviews supported by Buru Energy for Traditional Owner groups in the Kimberley, the Australian Council of Learned Academic's (ACOLA) report *Engineering Energy: Unconventional Gas Production – A Study of Shale Gas in Australia*, the outcomes of the Northern Territory's Independent Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing by Dr Allan Hawke and the South Australian Parliamentary Inquiry into hydraulic fracturing.

Despite all these inquiries, activist groups with anti-fossil fuel agendas continue to run scare campaigns that ignore the science and the facts. They ignore the fact that fracking has been safely undertaken in Australia, including in the Canning Basin, for many years, and that the majority of the gas used by households and industry on the East Coast comes from unconventional and fraced wells.

We are confident that this upcoming scientific inquiry will come to the same conclusion as all previous inquiries, that the industry is safe if properly regulated.

Any extended moratorium on unconventional gas activity in Western Australia will prevent people in regional areas enjoying the benefits of a gas industry that include opportunities for employment and generation of investment and also providing energy security. The industry also has the potential to provide economic empowerment to Traditional Owners in remote areas, which was the case when a successful frac program was completed on Noonkanbah Station in 2015 with the full support and involvement of the Traditional Owners and members of the Noonkanbah community.

Visit www.buruenergy.com for information on Buru Energy's current and future activities.

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