

25 June 2018

Claims made in Fairfax media article regarding Buru Energy frac well sites are alarmist and misleading

Buru Energy is aware of the article "*radioactive water reignites concerns over fracking for gas*" published on Fairfax media websites on 24 June 2018 which selectively quoted sections from the Buru Energy submission to the WA Independent Scientific Inquiry into fracking. The article includes a number of alarmist and misleading statements about Buru Energy's 2015 frac program.

The facts are that groundwater monitoring before, during and after the frac program has demonstrated no impact of the frac program on groundwater. Groundwater monitoring results were made publicly available before, during and after the frac program.

All of Buru's operations have been carried out fully in compliance with all applicable state and federal approvals, guidelines and regulations, and in accordance with agreements with the relevant Native Title parties.

The specific reference in the article is to water that flowed back from a well (flowback water) which was sampled both during the flowback period and after the water was contained in ponds that were lined to double the regulatory standard. The water in the ponds was fully analysed for a range of parameters, including radionuclides. The results of these analyses were compared to Australian Stockwater Guidelines, Australian Irrigation Water Guidelines, and Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. All radionuclide results were below the guideline levels for stockwater and irrigation use, indicating the flowback water meets standards for agricultural use. A single sample from the flowback stream recorded a level above Australian Drinking Water Guideline Levels (2.6 mSv compared to 1 mSv limit), though overall levels (0.68 mSv) in the samples and in the ponds met Australian Drinking Water standards.

The fact that flowback water meets standards for agricultural use and generally meets drinking water standards highlights the fact that flowback water poses no risk to humans or the environment. It is also proposed that flowback water will be reused for fracking in the future. This fact is clearly stated in Buru Energy's submission to the independent scientific inquiry into fracking in WA which is the source of the article.

Buru Energy is concerned that the activist group Lock the Gate has been able to access the submission prior to its public release by the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry into Fracking in WA and that the results have been misrepresented to attempt to alarm the public. Buru Energy will continue to cooperate with the Independent Scientific Inquiry into fracking and encourages all parties genuinely interested in fracking to await the outcomes of that inquiry.

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