

18 March 2022

Senator Sam McMahon
Senator for Northern Territory
1, 229 McMillans Road
Jingili NT 0800

Dear Senator McMahon,

I am writing to you in support of oil and gas exploration and production in the Beetaloo Basin.

Our company, Monadelphous, operates in Darwin and works directly with the oil and gas industry by currently providing maintenance services to the Inpex Offshore facilities and Shell's Prelude facility.

Developing the substantial gas resources in the Beetaloo Basin could create thousands of local jobs. This boost in individuals' incomes, as well as the significant royalty payments to Government, will support our regional communities and drive our local economy.

Businesses like ours depend on major projects. Exploration and production in the Beetaloo Basin will give us the certainty needed to keep people employed and grow our business. We have been based in Darwin for 30 years supporting the local community and businesses. Our business is dependent on the development of major projects such as unlocking the Beetaloo Basin.

An important element of unlocking the Beetaloo Basin is the commitment to work with stakeholders in the Barkly region to identify how increased gas activity in the area can drive economic benefits for Aboriginal people in both the region and wider Northern Territory. Our commitment to Indigenous engagement and diversity continues to be strengthened through meaningful Indigenous and gender diversity and inclusion programs and initiatives as detailed in our Reconciliation Action Plan and our Gender Diversity and Inclusion Plan (2021-2024). Monadelphous Northern Territory Operations is closely aligned to local industry groups and the Indigenous business community including:

- ☐ Rusca Group (majority Indigenous owned) – services agreement in place for recurring conveyor roller change-out;
- ☐ Larrakia Development Corporation (Indigenous owned) – ground maintenance;
- ☐ A&B Welding – provision of mechanical trades and offsite fabrication service; and
- ☐ Score Australasia – provision of flange and valve refurbishment services.

The gas industry and its contractors have a demonstrated track record of safe, sustainable operations throughout Australia, and I am concerned that politicians are being influenced by misinformation about onshore development.

It is important to note that an expert panel of eight scientists, chaired by the Hon. Justice Rachel Pepper, recently undertook an independent scientific inquiry into the practice of hydraulic fracturing in the Northern Territory and found that any risks could be mitigated or reduced to acceptable levels.

When asked about hydraulic fracturing in late-2015, Dr Alan Finkel, Australia's former Chief Scientist, said: *"the evidence is that, if properly regulated, it's completely safe."*

Exploration and production in the Beetaloo Basin could provide great benefits to businesses like ours, drive the Territory's economy, and be conducted safely and sustainably for years to come.

On behalf of businesses like ours, I urge you to support oil and gas exploration and production in the Beetaloo Basin.

Yours sincerely,

Rick Doyle

Regional Manager

Monadelphous Northern Territory Operations

17 Muramats Road, Hudson Creek, Berrimah