



Alice Springs - Ned Jampijimpa Hargraves

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Speaker: Ned Jampijimpa Hargraves

Ned Hargraves: My name is Ned Hargraves Jampijimpa and I am a warlpiri speaker and I represent my people who are Warlpiri right across the Northern Territory.

Hon. Justice Pepper: When you're ready, thank you.

Ned Hargraves: I'll get straight to the point. I'm not a very good speaker with your kind of language. I'm just standard English, what I've got, but I'll give it to you. I'll try my best, do my best to tell you what is important to our people out there, to our countrymen.

Look, we have so many of our loved ones, of our countrymen, who are now suffering. Suffering on some diseases of whatever that we have. The last thing that we want, the last thing that we want with our people, with our countrymen, is drinking toxic water. I think that this very, very, very dangerous and it's not good.

We have heard so many stories about fracking. Some people said, "It's not going to hurt, it's just going to sit up here. Sit up here. The toxic, it's not going to touch the ground. It's not going to touch the bottom of it." Hey, you know, so many people, some of our countrymen who have moved on, passed on, and some are still with us today. They have given us authority for our [warlpiri language], for our [warlpiri language] and our [warlpiri language]. What I said there is they have left us responsibility authorities to look after the country. The country has looked after them, but with all [warlpiri language], when I'm saying [warlpiri language], meaning "dreaming to the land." To the land. And [warlpiri language] to the land, what it represent.

I'm a [warlpiri language]. I'm a rain dreaming [warlpiri language] and I have a totem that's a rain dreaming, that's my [warlpiri language], my [warlpiri language]. I have responsibility to keep that alive for my children's children's future.

This fracking is something new to our people. To me, what I see, it's so dangerous, so dangerous and it's not good. To live in a country that we own, to live in a [warlpiri language] that is going to be broken in two parts. It's going to take away our culture, identity and the last thing that we want to



see is our loved ones gone and our futures children's living on toxic water. How long are we going to live there? How are we going to live with this toxic water? How? How long? That question belongs to your people, [warlpiri language].

When I say [warlpiri language], it means white people. When I say [warlpiri language] it's indigenous people. We are so sick and tired of it. We are so angry that these things keep coming, keep coming, keep coming. You know, somewhere along the line we've got to stop, let's work it out together. Let's think of a way to fix this or maybe a better way to do it.

Digging up a whole is digging up my body. Breaking up my [warlpiri language], my [warlpiri language]. That's what it is. Like I said, I can't put in any other way that I can speak like [warlpiri language], like you guys speak. The tongues of your white people, but I speak for my people. I've got a wife that is on dialysis. The last thing that I want is my kids to living on toxic water, drinking out of that water. That's not what life is all about. I don't know if I'm saying the right thing, but it is not right to keep continuing what is happening. It's not right, so let's try and fix it and try and work together so that we can become one. Thank you.

Hon. Justice Pepper: Thank you very much. Any questions or comments?

Yes, Mr. Hart.

Prof. Barry Hart: Thanks very much, Mr. Hargraves. As you indicated, well you didn't say it, but the panel knows and feels our responsibility, great responsibility, we're talking here about ground water contamination. That we do the absolute best job we can of going through all the evidence, going through all of the potential pathways that this industry might contaminate that ground water, make sure that our assessment as to whether it's low risk, acceptable and so forth is as best we possibly can. I can assure you that we feel the responsibility very seriously.

Ned Hargraves: Thank you. I want to leave you with a song, if you don't mind.

Hon. Justice Pepper: Just before you do, I did have a question. I did have a question. Sorry.

Ned Hargraves: All right.

Hon. Justice Pepper: You said something very interesting and it's made me think. You said that you're so sick and tired of it, that these things keep coming. What did you mean by that? You're talking of the mining, what are you talking about there?

Ned Hargraves: I thought you might have picked it up.

Hon. Justice Pepper: I think I have, but I just need to hear it from you so I don't make a bad guess.

Ned Hargraves: I'll try to be straight then. What I said there is we've got things coming, we've got everything coming to us. The mining, the mineral thing. This



fracking thing is ... We don't know these things and it's coming because ... is it because, let's get rid of the black people or is it because let's take the land, let's poison these people? I'm talking straight to you because enough is enough. Enough is enough. Can we actually do something better? Can we do something better?

Hon. Justice Pepper: I understand.

Ned Hargraves: Is that?

Hon. Justice Pepper: I understand, understand. Thank you.

Ned Hargraves: Can I just sing you a song?

Hon. Justice Pepper: I was going to say, now the song, please.

Ned Hargraves: This is a song that ... I want to sing the song because I want you to listen to it because it's a message out there to [warlpiri language]. Take your hands off.

If you can hear me.

(singing)

Thank you.

Hon. Justice Pepper: Thank you very much. Thank you. It's most appreciated. Thank you.