

LOCK THE GATE ALLIANCE

AUSTRALIANS WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR LAND, WATER, AND FUTURE 

12 February 2018

Dear Justice Pepper,

Apology to Inquiry and Origin

Thank you for your letter dated 11 February 2018 and your clear feedback.

We apologise unreservedly to the Inquiry Panel and Origin for alleging there was a cover up of the casing deformation at the Amungee NW-1H well. We want to make it clear that in raising the issue we did not intend to impugn the integrity of the Panel in anyway whatsoever.

We believed at the time it was a reasonable concern to raise based on the information before us and the two versions of the Amungee NW-1H figure. We believed there would be considerable public interest in the inconsistencies contained in the information.

Specifically, the concern we raised was that Origin's April 2017 primary submission #153 to the inquiry did not reference the casing deformation, and it was not until May 2017 that an additional Origin submission included evidence of the well casing deformation as an appendix.

We appreciate the Panel has now looked into the matter and concluded that the matter did not involve a cover up and we sincerely apologise for any adverse impact the allegations had on the Panel or Origin.

We hope that, after this matter has been resolved, there may still be an opportunity to objectively consider the merits of the issues which it raises, notably:

1. The potential implications of the type of deformation which occurred and the potential loss of the frac fluid from the 12th frac stage attempted.
2. The difficulties that arise for communities when different information is supplied by gas companies on different occasions.

We hope this matter does not detract from the good faith that Lock the Gate Alliance, its employees and communities across the Territory have shown in undertaking intensive engagement with the Inquiry process. We trust Lock the Gate can continue a positive relationship with the inquiry.

Yours sincerely,



Naomi Hogan

Lock the Gate Alliance