

Justice Pepper and panel thankyou for your time so late in the day

I would like to first give you a brief run down of my background as mentioned in my submission

I have over 25 years experience in the pastoral industry across rural and remote Australia, 15 of these in the Northern Territory.

In the NT I have run my own cattle breeding and trading business, initially based in the Sturt Plateau region. I have been a contract fencer and yard builder, established a cattle feedlot, and have done contract mustering plus general station contract work.

I established Terrabos Consulting 2011 and focuse on the Northern Territory pastoral, mining/exploration industry and Aboriginal economic development.

Prior to Terrabos I worked for 5 years at the Northern Land Council (NLC) in Rangeland Management. This was focused on sustainable pastoral development on aboriginal land which including long term lease negotiations under the NT Land Rights Act. I also developed personal relationships and a high level of trust with aboriginal people which I don't take lightly.

2012 to 2015 I was involved in the oil and gas industry negotiating and managing access agreements and liaising with pastoralists regarding exploration activities with over 50 stations north of Tennant Creek and south of Katherine, plus negotiated native title access. Activities included seismic operations, drilling, geological survey, airborne geophysical survey and Infrastructure development survey work.

Being a territorian and with the experience I have I find myself siting between pastoralist, traditional owners and the oil and gas industry and this has given me extensive experience and insight into issues and relationships

For today like would just like to focus on the issue of social license and what that is  
The majority of my work has been for Pangaea Resources who engaged me at the end of 2012 to assist them with pastoral access negotiations. Since then I have negotiated and managed approximately 25 signed land access agreements covering 27 stations for Pangaea to undertake on ground exploration operations such as seismic and drilling.

Through this time Pangaea built their social license to operate by negotiating openly and fairly with Pastoralist who banded together and negotiated in good faith for a mutely beneficial outcome. Firstly Pangaea had to build trust by doing what they said they were going to do and this they did. With that I believe came respect and the ability to sit at the pastoralist table on a yearly bases to openly renegotiate access as access agreements have been yearly.

**RESPECT IS KEY YOU OPEN THE FRONT GATE OF A STATION THE HOUSE MIGHT BE 20 K DOWN THE TRACK BUT YOU HAVE JUST ENTERED SOMEONES HOME SO SHOW THEM THE RESPECT THEY DESERVE**

**HOW AGREEMENTS WERE NEGOITATED**

**NATIVE TITLE**

**PASTORAL**

**WORK PROGRAM**

Delivered to TOS

Links in with pastoralist

**ONCE SIGNED AN OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT IS DISCUSSED AND SIGNED THIS IS THE DO'S AND DON'TS ON INDIVIDUAL STATIONS REGADING SUCH THINGS AS**

- GATES
- STATION SHOOTING
- SPEED
- COMMUNICATION

THIS OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT IS READ OUT TO ALL CREWS AT INDUCTION DAY

AT THE END OF ALL OPERATIONS I VISIT EACH STATION TO SIGN OFF AND DISCUSS CONDUCT.

THE FINAL QUESTION IS ALWAYS WOULD YOU ALLOW PANGAEA BACK ON YOUR STATION AND THE ANSWER HAS BEEN YES

I HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN ASKED BY STATIONS IF PANGAEA WOULD COME BACK.

To state I believe Pangaea built and holds a social license to operate in the Sturt Plateau region

Where does that social license need to extend to and how do you build one.

I know there are issues with a social license with the wider community and I respect that.

My concern is with information delivered particularly to traditional owners.

I've had TOs south of Katherine tell me directly that they have been told

They will get sick, their kids will die, their water will get poisoned and the fish will die, their cattle will die and their land will be destroyed

In their eyes this is total Armageddon

Whether you like this industry or not to use fear as a tool and that's what was in these peoples eyes, against the most disadvantaged territorians is wrong.

I believe there are opportunities for TOs within the oil and gas industry however TOs need to be afforded the right to balanced information

The industry engagement is governed by the native title act and land rights act and controlled by the land councils and through this inquiry there may be more restrictions

Activist are controlled by no body and push their own extreme agenda I believe they need to be controlled and held accountable as the industry should be.

Another group asked me to help secure some funding to further develop their pastoral operations as a recent application had been knocked back. Funding is getting harder to obtain and I believe financial independence is a large stepping stone to true self determination. I asked what other businesses or opportunities they had on their land and they said a company wants to frack on their but they didn't like that. I asked why they didn't like it and they didn't know they just said they had been told it was no good. I told them it may not be right for them but they should investigate it fully as it may be a way to make money in one area of their land to use in another. They asked me to go and speak to the exportation company for them. I explained the moratorium and told them they would need to start the process with the land council

Again they have been told it's bad but don't know why.

I have raised the above points as I work in aboriginal economic development and see opportunities for them within the O and G industry and I would hate to see them railroaded and miss out.

Activist will go back to their homes but it will be TOs who could be the biggest losers and I've seen this scenario play out before

TO HOLISTIC CONSULTATION

- PASTORAL
- OIL AND GAS
- ANY OTHER

IF I WAS GOING TO GET ROCKS THROWN AT ME BY PASTORALIST I WOULDN'T DO WHAT I DO

NEW KID IN A PLAYGROUND