



# Roper Resources Pty Ltd

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Justice Rachel Pepper  
Chair of the Hydraulic Fracturing Taskforce  
GPO Box 4396  
Darwin, NT 0801, Australia

By email: [fracking.inquiry@nt.gov.au](mailto:fracking.inquiry@nt.gov.au)

30<sup>th</sup> April 2017

## Re: Hydraulic Fracturing Inquiry

Dear Justice Pepper,

I respectfully make this brief submission to the Inquiry on behalf of Roper Resources Pty. Ltd., a company registered in the Northern Territory which holds four (4) Oil and Gas Exploration Permits and twenty-five (25) Oil and Gas Exploration Permit Applications through the following subsidiaries:

- Bonaparte Oil Ltd
- MBS Oil Pty Ltd
- Arafura Oil Pty Ltd
- AOG (WA) Pty Ltd
- AOG (SA) Pty Ltd
- Wiso Oil Pty Ltd

The area occupied by these 29 permits and applications is 280,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

Roper Resources is part of the MacMines Group of Companies, a related entity of the Shanxi Meijin Energy Group of China. Roper Resources acquired these companies listed above and their tenements and applications in March 2016 from Australian Oil and Gas Pty Ltd. We are steadily becoming acquainted with the relevant Acts and Regulations of the Northern Territory.

The top level company within our Group, Meijin Energy, is China's largest coke producer and the company operates coal mines, steel plant, coal chemical manufacturing and several diversified enterprises. Meijin employs 20,000 workers and is regarded in Shanxi Province and top corporate citizen through its active social endeavours.

Roper Resources also holds Australian Ilmenite Resources Pty. Ltd. and will shortly return the Roper Valley ilmenite project to production. In Queensland, through MacMines Austasia Pty. Ltd., the company is entering the final stages of the Environmental Impact Statement acceptance process, which we expect to conclude in July this year. This is for the China Stone Coal Project in the Galilee Basin. The leases associated with and adjacent to China Stone contain 10 billion tonnes of thermal coal.

Through our acquisition of the above companies, Roper Resources believes that it holds both conventional and unconventional gas resources along with conventional oil resources in the Northern Territory, thus our interest in the outcome of the Hydraulic Fracturing Inquiry is high and we are keen to see a positive outcome in line with the scientific research which will be undertaken by your taskforce.

Whilst we have not made technical submission to the Inquiry, being new to the oil and gas community in the Northern Territory, personally I have been involved with horizontal drilling and

**Roper Resources Pty Ltd** ABN 89 164 147 086

Part of the MacMines and Meijin Energy Group of Companies

Email: [REDACTED]



www.macmines.com  
Tel: +61 8 8941 3213

hydraulic fracturing of coal seams since 1986 and have a working knowledge of the process and of the impact that this technique has on the geological environment. It was in 1986 that, through an ACARP funded project, I was involved in the fracturing of a coal seam and subsequent mine through the zone in Central Queensland. Hence my belief that a scientific assessment of the hydraulic fracturing process will deliver a positive outcome for the future of unconventional gas exploration and production in the Northern Territory.

In another area of interest in the assessment of the risks, is the section on Land Access. I have had over 25 years experience in dealing with land access for coal exploration and development in Queensland, six (6) years of which is current and also one year dealing with land access in the Northern Territory, as of 2016. The introduction of the Conduct and Compensation Agreements with land owners and explorers in Queensland has been an immeasurable burden to the coal mining industry. Land owners, backed by obstructive legal teams, have delayed project development, impacted on resource extraction and this has had consequential impacts on employment in the coal fields and added to the cost of exploration in the extreme, with no general benefit to the people of Queensland.

In assessing any future recommendation in this regard, I ask that this issue be carefully considered so as to learn from the experience of Queensland.

On behalf of Roper Resources, we appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments to the inquiry and we look forward to following the next stages of the Inquiry as they become available to the public.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell N Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Russell N Phillips

CEO

Roper Resources Pty. Ltd.