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PO Box 235
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28 May 2015

House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment.

Dear Committee

Submission from The Norwood Resource Incorporated

The Norwood Resource Incorporated (TNR) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Committee. TNR is of the view that many so called environmental non-government organisations (eNGOs) are using donated funds to actively engage in ideological agendas rather than dedicating those donations toward their core objectives to provide practical work to improve the natural environment.

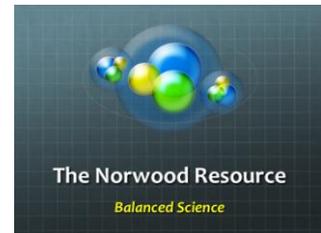
The Norwood Resource Incorporated (TNR) was formed by a group of retired, semi retired and independent consultants predominantly from the oil and gas exploration and production industry. This group of professionals has wide oil & gas industry experience, and knows that many of the statements and accusations made in public reports including from social media, radio, print and television which are denigrating the industry for its environmental management performance were wrong and sensationalist. Many eNGOs opposing the industry use false and misleading information to garner support for their ideological position and to raise funds, as well as public and community support. Many of their press reports lack verifiable facts, present misinformation and opinion as facts, and cannot validate their statements from scientific studies.

TNR is an environmental awareness group, which bases its views on facts and scientific evidence, and has a mission to get the facts about the impact of oil & gas exploration and production (onshore and off shore operations) on the environment into the public and media space.

TNR has been operating for about 2 years initially as an informal group, but in August 2013 became incorporated and registered with the ACNC. Funding and resourcing of TNR's activities has primarily come from the Founding Committee, as well as some in kind support and albeit relatively small, cash donations from some interested groups. At this stage, TNR has not applied for DGR status, although we believe it would qualify under the guidelines.

In regard to the focus of our activities to get the facts and truth about the impact of oil & gas exploration and production operations into the public space, we have published numerous articles and papers focussing upon both offshore and onshore oil & gas exploration and production, as well as papers refuting and rebutting many of the assertions by many eNGOs (<http://thenorwoodresource.org.au/>)

TNR has also reviewed articles and press releases from a number of eNGOs and 'Green' researchers and has actively engaged in debates using scientific evidence to rebut false and misleading claims and assertions. We have found during this process that many eNGOs



manufacture 'evidence' to support their position which is to shut down all fossil fuel (coal, oil & gas) production and use regardless of the needs of the population of the world at large, and especially in third-world countries. These eNGOs and their advocates depend upon these very products (and by products) to sustain and improve their lives.

The articles which TNR publishes are generally of three types;

1. Factual scientific articles. (eg. "How loud is the sound of a breaching whale?")
2. Articles that challenge "popular" but misinformed, claims from 'green' groups (eNGOs)
3. Articles that dissect and challenge "peer-reviewed" scientific publications

In support of our submission to the Committee, rather than attach numerous articles and papers we have reviewed and rebutted, we provide links to the relevant articles listed on our web site.

- In regard to some eNGOs promoting protests and garnering support from the general public, TNR reviewed protestor claims and assertions as reported in the popular press, and found that many had falsified evidence and made misleading statements to support their ideological positions.

<http://thenorwoodresource.org.au/2015/03/03/do-protestors-tell-the-truth-and-are-their-protests-based-on-facts/>

<http://thenorwoodresource.org.au/2014/05/06/are-petition-signatories-duped-by-clean-ocean-action/>

and

<http://thenorwoodresource.org.au/2014/10/14/is-the-greenpeace-nz-campaign-against-seismic-surveys-fraudulent/>

- Another TNR paper challenged the repetition of falsehoods by some eNGOs <http://thenoodresource.org.au/2014/07/30/the-right-to-protest-or-lobby-should-not-be-abused/>
- Some eNGOs resort to vilification, censorship and personal attacks when challenged by TNR.

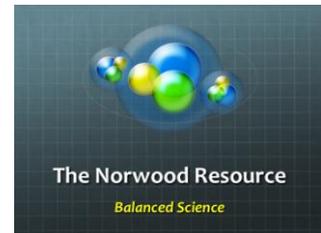
<http://thenorwoodresource.org.au/2015/02/10/cover-up-by-oil-free-seas- -kangaroo-islandofski/>

<http://thenorwoodresource.org.au/2015/02/09/the-torrent-of-falsehoods-on-oil-free-seas- -kangaroo-island-ofskis-facebook-page-continues/>

<http://thenorwoodresource.org.au/2014/05/06/are-petition-signatories-duped-by-clean-ocean-action/>

- We generate verifiable reports,

<http://thenorwoodresource.org.au/2015/01/29/cetacean-strandings-a-plea-for-honesty/>



Further examples can be sourced from our web site:

<http://thenorwoodresource.org.au/>

and our Facebookpage :

<https://www.facebook.com/TheNorwoodResource>

TNR has become more convinced than ever that there are eNGOs that prey upon a caring and giving community in order to collect funds through donations (particularly through the privilege of having DGR status) and to utilise these funds for the pursuit of ideological aims, rather than to apply them to the environmental projects and objectives they claim are important.

TNR urges the Committee to also look to see if the Australian Consumer Law (ACL) which applies to Australian businesses should also apply to eNGOs in their advertising and fund raising. The ACL states that businesses must not mislead or deceive consumers (donors?) in any way, and it carries penalties for businesses that fail to meet these requirements. TNR is of the view that the ACL should equally apply to eNGOs, and that the ACCC should be more active in the enforcement of false and misleading advertising for all Australian based businesses and eNGOs.

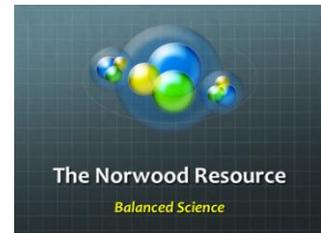
Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Committee's deliberations, and we would be pleased to provide additional information if required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Holland'.

Bruce Holland
Secretary
The Norwood Resource

Mobile 0417 357 508



About The Norwood Resource Incorporated (TNR)

History:

The Norwood Resource evolved from an informal monthly gathering of retired, semi-retired or independent oil and gas industry professionals who had become increasingly dismayed about the way these industries were being misrepresented in the media. Assertions that these industries impact poorly on the environment come from ill-informed and often untrue statements in the press with scant reference to any facts. The Norwood Resource team has first-hand knowledge about many facets of the oil and gas industries and can assemble, review and provide a definitive assessment of the relevant facts.

As a consequence, The Norwood Resource was formed as an informal not-for-profit organisation in late 2012 and formally incorporated as a not-for-profit entity in August 2013.

Our mission:

1. To assemble and disseminate factual, scientific and verifiable information about the environmental impacts of oil and gas (petroleum) exploration and production to the media and the community at large.
2. To actively challenge and counter misinformation about the impacts of oil and gas (petroleum) exploration and production on the environment.
3. To inform key media personnel about the environmental regulations under which the energy industries operate and the care with which they research and maintain best environmental practices.
4. To establish and maintain a centre of expertise about the oil and gas (petroleum) exploration and production industries and best practice environmental protection knowledge and outcomes.

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