

Onshore Gas Inquiry

- Submission of new evidence to the Inquiry

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- Reason for the new submission
 - To make the Inquiry fully aware of industry relationships

I apologise in advance, if the Inquiry is already in possession of evidence of a similar nature but I have to assume that you aren't initially.

Following the Inquiry hearing at Hamilton, I was a little perplexed at some of the news media reports I saw appearing that covered the event. For the sake of brevity, I'll cut to the chase:

When I began to investigate ownership and relationships in the gas industry, what I found, rather alarmed me. It is indisputable that there is a clear link between the Rupert Murdoch media empire and the mining giant, Halliburton. The former CEO of Halliburton, was none other than former US Vice President, Dick Cheney. Dick Cheney was the driving force behind introducing a clause into the US 2005 Energy Policy Act, excluding the oil and gas industry from prosecution for certain environmental violations covered by the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act. This amendment, became known as the "Halliburton Loophole" and Senators in the US, are still trying to this day, to get this amendment repealed but as yet, to no avail. Now why would you want to exclude an industry from prosecution, if what they're doing is safe? I would have thought that they have, pretty much, admitted guilt by that act alone.

It is no secret that Mr Murdoch has partnered Halliburton in several ventures and there have been a list of corruption allegations as long as your arm. Some of the mud has stuck but some of it appears to have conveniently washed off. It is also no secret, that both Mr Murdoch and Mr Cheney are members of the clandestine club known as the 'Bilderberg' group. Both Mecrus and Lakes Oil, clearly have industry links with Halliburton. The more you dig into the affairs of Halliburton, the more frightening allegations of corruption and controversy you find, particularly in relation to defence contracts at the time of the Iraq war. If this is the outfit that will be involved in most, if not all drilling operations in Victoria, through Mecrus and Lakes Oil, it is very alarming.

It is also no secret, that Ms Rinehart attempted to gain control of Fairfax media here in Australia but her attempt failed and she offloaded her stake in Fairfax earlier this year. Now why would she want to control important media outlets I wonder?

In a supposedly democratic world, the tail is wagging the dog. In spite of who we vote for to represent us in Parliament, it is powerful industry forces who are running the show, not the politicians. This isn't ground breaking news, it's been mooted for some years now, it's just that more and more compelling evidence, seems to be emerging to support that theory.

I tread cautiously where conspiracy theories are concerned but I find the timing of allegations against Mr John Doyle (Auditor-General) and the releasing of his offices' report on unconventional gas, rather coincidental, especially given that the report does not appear favourable for the gas industry and there are calls for him to be replaced.

As this additional submission has had to be made in rather a hurry, I have (on advice from Keir Delaney) uploaded it to the address he supplied. Sources of my research are available on request.

Yours,

Steve Winfield