

KRED Enterprises MINING UPDATE



How KRED represents its members: the Traditional Owners of the Kimberley

KRED Enterprises is owned by the Ambooriny Burru Foundation and we work for and act on the direction of our members: the Traditional Owners of the Kimberley. In all negotiations around oil and gas we are striving to ensure our members benefit economically and aren't marginalised by exploitation of our Country's resources.

KRED was originally formed from the Kimberley Land Council and by our old people, the Kimberley elders, who wanted an organisation that would be owned and directed by Aboriginal people and work exclusively in our interests. We act only on the prior and informed consent of our members.

KRED's members are made up of the following native title claim groups: Mayala, Bardi Jawi, Karajarri, Ngurrara, Nyikina Mangala, Tjurabalan, Mawadjala, Gadjidgar and Jaru. By standing together as a group we are strong. By standing together as a group we are able to hold companies to account. It's our aim to take advantage of the enormous opportunities unfolding in the Kimberley and secure long-term economic independence for our people.

Aboriginal people in the Kimberley are ready to be part of the benefits of economic development as active participants. For us, prosperity must be about three things: economy, people and culture, and Country.

KRED firmly believes companies should have a social license when involved in projects that affect people and Country. This means projects have the ongoing approval and acceptance of the community and Traditional Owners.

One of the key Future Act Notices currently underway is by French multinational Areva. Areva is interested in exploring for uranium on Nyikina Mangala Country. Nyikina Mangala do not support this activity and are therefore exercising our right to say 'No' to uranium exploration.

"We will not allow uranium exploration on Nyikina Mangala Country. We will not allow our Country to be poisoned."

- KRED's Chairperson, Anthony Watson



KRED Enterprises MINING UPDATE



Which companies are exploring for oil and gas in the Canning Suberbasin?

The development of the Canning Basin could mean millions of dollars for WA. The Superbasin extends under Broome, the Dampier Peninsula, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing and Yampi Sound training area and is estimated to hold up to 229 trillion cubic feet of gas and 10 billion barrels of oil.

This means there's a great opportunity for economic participation by our people—if you consider the jobs, apprenticeships and training opportunities it may provide—but at the same time, it also poses the biggest threat to our traditional lands.

We hope to support our members in making informed decisions about what happens on their Country.

These are the key companies with permits in the Canning Superbasin:

Buru Energy/Mitsubishi are the biggest players. They're a joint partnership and have exploration permits mainly in the northern part of the Canning Basin, covering Nyikina Mangala, Karajarri and Ngurrara Country. They own the Yulleroo gasfield, the Valhalla gasfield and the Ungani oilfield. They are supported by the WA government, however the WA government has not sought KRED's input into any agreement with Buru and Mitsubishi.

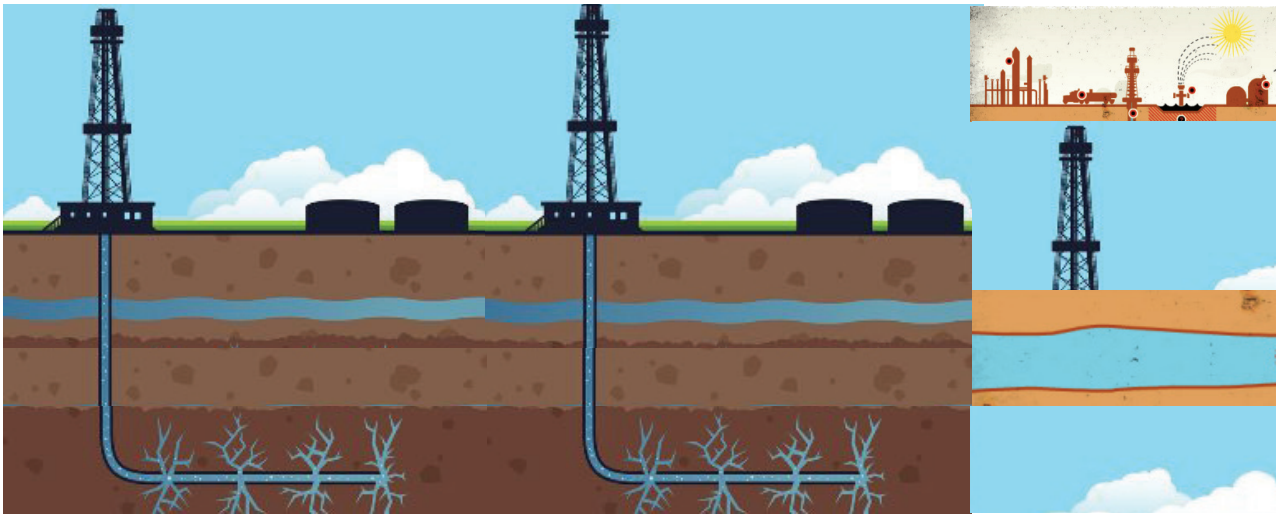
Rey Resources currently holds a coal exploration tenement and has commercial interests in Buru's tenement. Their permits are on Nyikina Mangala Country.

New Standard Energy owns exploration permits mainly in the southern Canning Basin. They're interested in oil, unconventional gas, and are partnered with ConocoPhillips and Chinese oil and gas giant PetroChina. Their permits cover Ngurrara, Yawinya and Karajarri Country.

Other companies with interests in the Canning include: **Areva**, a French multinational interested in uranium exploration on Nyikina Mangala Country; **Hess**, a US company which now has two permits in the Canning Basin; and **Shell** which has an acreage in the Offshore Canning basin in conjunction with Woodside.



KRED Enterprises **FRACKING**



What are the facts?

Buru Energy is continuing exploration and development of the Canning Basin. They're interested in further testing and exploring for gas at two sites—Yulleroo and Valhalla, where there are four existing wells.

The gas they're keen to test is buried between 2-4km below the ground. It's known as 'unconventional gas' because it's locked tight within the rock. To get to it, Buru needs to use a process called **fracking** or hydraulic fracturing.

Fracking could potentially pose a risk to Country and a risk to human health.

Here's how it works: a mixture of water, sand and chemicals is pumped down into the well and shoots out through holes in the well wall and into the rock. The sand in the mixture causes tiny cracks in the rock and this is how the gas is unlocked and released.

One worry, is that although the fracking at Yulleroo and Valhalla will be 2-4km underground, the process might poison our drinking water, which is 20-500m from the surface.

Buru Energy say fracking is a safe process and that the technique has been perfected by operators and thoroughly assessed by independent scientists and analysts. They say the aquifer located under Buru Energy's sites does not flow into Broome's water

supply, so there is no chance of contamination of the town's drinking water.

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), wrote to Buru saying Buru do not need to have a formal environmental assessment as their tests are 'unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment.'

APPEA says incidences of water contamination were not from fracking but from problems with wells such as minor leaks.

WA's Water Corporation says there are potential risks to the public's drinking water from fracking.

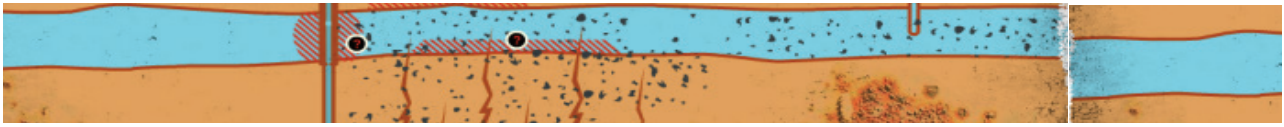
WA's Government says the protection of water resources is its highest priority and all chemicals used in a well must be approved.

The National Toxics Network says the group of chemicals Buru will use in fracking are toxic, with some known to cause birth defects in animals.

The Australian Council of Learned Academies says there have been no cases internationally where fracking has accidentally hit a water source and caused contamination.

The Conservation Council of WA says fracking has the potential to cause permanent damage to WA's environment, ecosystems and natural and cultural heritage.

KRED Enterprises **FRACKING/KEY DATES**

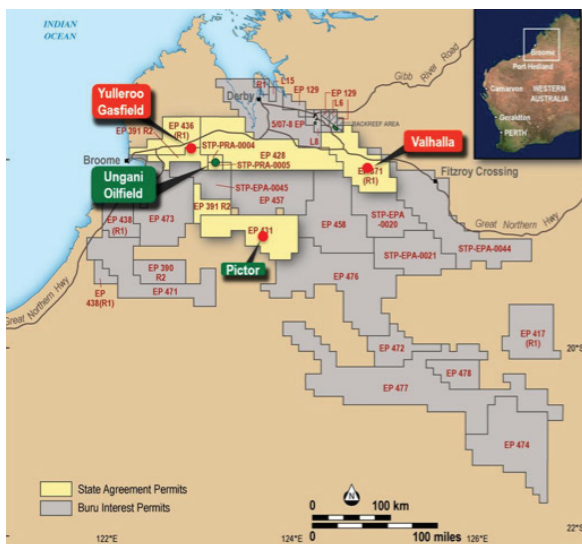


What is KRED's current position on fracking?

We believe there should be no fracking on our members' Country without our consent. KRED are currently in the process of assembling an expert panel to offer independent advice on Buru's suggested environmental modeling. While there is currently no fracking on our members' Country, it is likely there will be in the future, and the data that Buru collects from these first tests at Yulleroo and Valhalla will form the baseline data for all other fracking experiments. Culturally, our Dreamtime stories connect underground water from Jaru right through to the west Kimberley coast. A large part of the west Kimberley is also on the National Heritage List, for its 'rich and dynamic Aboriginal culture', its 'biological richness', and its 'geological and fossil evidence of Australia's evolutionary history'. We want to ensure we have in place the most rigorous environmental assessment possible so our Country is protected.



Buru Energy's Upcoming Community Information Sessions:



12th March, 12pm - 3pm

Derby Recreation Centre, Ashley Street

13th March, 11am - 1.30pm

Fitzroy Crossing Recreation Centre, Fallon Road

You can find out more about mining developments in the Canning Basin by:

- contacting KRED Enterprises 91928782
- following KRED on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KREDEnterprises>
- visiting our website www.kred.org.au
- talking to named applicants
- attending one of Buru Energy's community information sessions.

KRED Enterprises **NEWS**

‘Scutta girl’ new Chairperson of Ambooriny Burru Board

Bonnie Edwards, the new Chairperson of the Ambooriny Burru Board, doesn't tell stories about sad things.

Her vision is firmly cast ahead, to a turned corner, where all local Indigenous people have access to employment opportunities, live healthy lifestyles and have something to look forward to, without having to rely on the government for everything.

“This is my aim. I'm sick of seeing our people walking around like zombies. Inevitably, we have to be part of the Australian economy. We have to try and make what we can out of it, make something of our lives and make something for our people.”

Bonnie was proud when she found out she'd been elected Chairperson.

“I want to thank the board for trusting me with this responsibility. I also can't believe they've elected a woman! I should have said thank you at the time, but all I could do was smile and smile.”

“During my term as Chairperson, I want to see more Aboriginal groups join the Ambooriny Burru Foundation because we are building a strong organisation to do our business work through KRED. KRED has a fantastic team, it's our team, and they're working to do the best job for what we want and need. So with this in mind, I will stand up and say what I believe. And what I do say is what I mean,” Bonnie says.

Bonnie grew up fluent in both Jaru culture and the whitefella world.

As a child she lived with her mum and mob in the Bungles, running around as a, “... wild little blackfella.” At the age of nine, however, she was moved to the Halls Creek Australian Inland Mission Hostel, a school run by the Presbyterian Church for Aboriginal children with white fathers.



New Ambooriny Burru Chairperson Bonnie Edwards

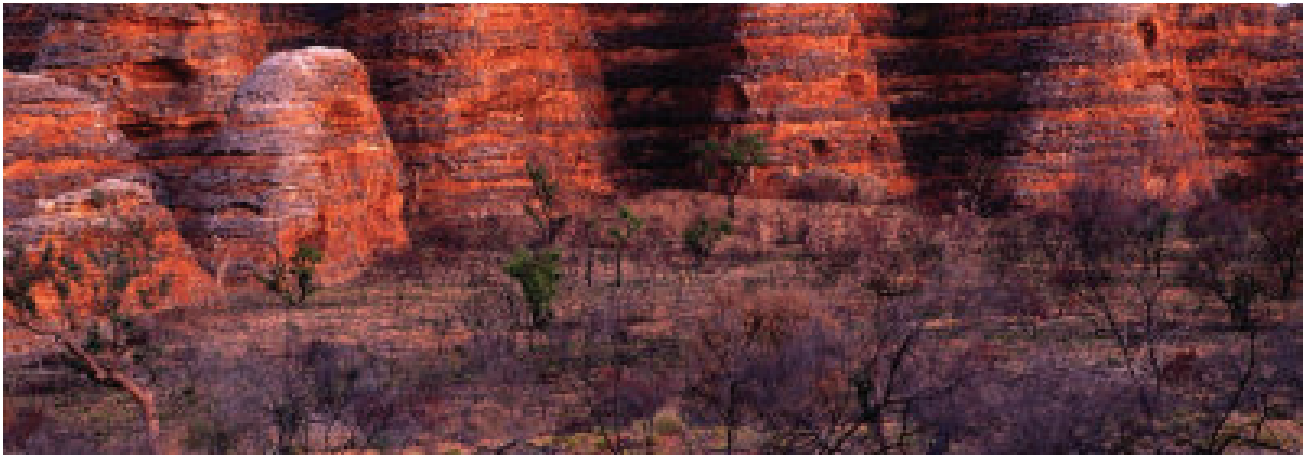
When she started, she was amazed her classmates couldn't speak the Jaru language and the pressure was on to pick up Kriol—a language she would later use in her work as an interpreter.

At thirteen, she left school to work as a domestic servant on a cattle station owned by the Lords of London where she polished the silver until it, “... glittered so much you could see their faces reflected in it.”

Polishing silver and starching sheets earned her eight dollars a month, which she carefully put away until she'd saved enough to leg it to QLD. It was in Brisbane she, “... learnt English, how to hold a knife and fork, and how to be a lady.”

With three languages under the belt it's not surprising she picked up work as an interpreter when she came back to the Kimberley, yo-yoing between English and Jaru, Jaru and Kriol. It was through interpreting she earned the nickname ‘Scutta girl’ from Annette Kogolo—‘scutta’ being a local slang word for deadly. Annette was still learning the linguistic ropes and was grateful for Bonnie's belief in her and support.

KRED Enterprises NEWS



No stranger to mining negotiations, Bonnie has interpreted for Tanami Gold NL and Argyle Diamond Mine. She's adamant that, "Proponents are benefiting from our land, so we need to make sure our people also benefit."

She'd like to see KRED members use mining royalties to set up businesses, community development

projects, to buy real estate, and to help people go back to country and run projects from country.

We welcome her warmly as Chairperson of the Ambooriny Burru Board.

'Scutta girl' Bonnie Edwards has walked in two worlds for many years.

KRED concerned Buru's drilling given 'green' light

KRED Enterprises is concerned by reports that Buru Energy need not undergo a formal environmental assessment for its proposed drilling activities in the Canning Basin.

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) wrote to Buru Energy stating that drilling is 'unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment.'

This means the company is a step closer to fracking for shale gas.

KRED Enterprise's CEO Wayne Bergmann says the decision has been made rashly and without consideration of the cumulative effect Buru's activities will have on the whole life of the Canning Basin.

"This is not about one or two holes. This is about substantive exploration over a massive land area. Tests or drilling at this stage have to be scrutinised to meet the highest environmental standards.

This is because these tests will form the baseline data for all other activities," Mr Bergmann says.

The EPA stated the WA Department of Mines and Petroleum and the Department of Water would mitigate any potential impacts of Buru's exploration work.

Newsletter references

Photo of the Bungle Bungles from <http://www.internationalharbors.com/travelNews/australia.html> by Trevr Creighton, Photographer.

Cartoon of fracking from <http://transitionculture.org/2011/04/05/a-film-review-gasland/>

There is more information and there are more stories on our website: <http://www.kred.org.au>

Waves of grief, waves of hope



Verbal brawls, a blatant disrespect of the Chairperson and very little in the way of robust, democratic and intelligent debate, characterised WA State Parliament on Thursday 20th February.

There was talk of private investment in resorts, golf courses, shopping centers and multi-story car parks; there was a mention of the quarterly CommSec report stating Western Australia ‘... remains the top-performing economy in the nation with no slippage in the ranking over the past few months.’

Then the Member for the Kimberley stood up, and the Parliament fell into a fidgeting silence.

The Hon. Josie Farrer gave notice to State Parliament that the State Constitution be amended to recognise Aboriginal people as the First Peoples of Western Australia.

“It is time—it is very definitely time—that we here in this Parliament, through our leadership, demonstrate that we are all equal in law, in humanity, in life and in death ... I know this is not a timid step and I know there are people on both sides of this house who want to shy away from this because they will be afraid, but timidity has never achieved anything great,” she said.

“It will be a way to demonstrate to the rest of the nation that WA accepts and recognises that true reconciliation means bold action, brave people and meaningful dialogue.”

She commended the Premier’s commitment to introduce a bill recognising the Noongar people as the traditional owners of the south west of Western Australia, but reminded the parliament that not all Aboriginal people in this state are Noongar people.

“We may look the same to some of you mob, just like you white people look the same to us!”

There was laughter at this.

Ms Farrer suggested the following words be added to the preamble amending the *Constitution Act 1889*:

‘And whereas the Houses of Parliament resolve to acknowledge the Aboriginal peoples as the First Peoples of Western Australia and traditional custodians of the land, the said Parliament seeks to effect a reconciliation with the Aboriginal peoples of Western Australia.’

Ms Farrer also touched on a number of crucial issues relevant to people living in the Kimberley.

She noted that while many constituents would have enjoyed a holiday over the Christmas break, this wasn’t the case for her. In the Kimberley over Christmas there were three suicides, including a 12-year-old boy in Halls Creek who hung himself.

“Suicide continues to create a wave of grief throughout my electorate,” she said.

KRED Enterprises **NEWS**

Ms Farrer urged the Legislative Assembly to think about the bipartisan commitment given by members to the issue last year.

“What has happened since that time in communities to improve and support the mental health and well-being of people who need it?” She challenged. “Interagency collaboration and communication is still not fully utilised, and the current silo approach of departments is not effective. Procedures, especially for data collection methods, are not consistent and shared between departments that have a vested interest in the same situation—namely, police, Department for Child Protection and Family Support, youth justice, education and mental health.”

“It will be a way to demonstrate to the rest of the nation that WA accepts and recognises that true reconciliation means bold action, brave people and meaningful dialogue.”

- The Hon. Josie Farrer

Ms Farrer then went on to ask why, in this state, with the top performing economy in the country, there are people living in third world conditions, children who miss out on weeks of education because the roads into communities are cut off by flooding, whole families crammed into homes with leaking sewage, exposed electrical wires and structural problems. She asked why the Indigenous housing package was delayed for two years, and now won't be rolled out until 2015.



As Ms Farrer's speech indicates, the reality on the ground in the Kimberley is quite different to the abstract reality of affluence and growth intimated by the recent CommSec report.

With this in mind, there continues to be a pressing need for the kind of work KRED Enterprises does in supporting local Aboriginal people to be active participants in the economy and to secure long-term economic independence for Aboriginal people in the region. By standing together we're strong, and we have a real chance to make positive changes to address some of the issues Ms Farrer raised in parliament last Thursday.

But change needs to happen on a political level, as well as a community level.

KRED Enterprises and the Ambooriny Burru Foundation applaud Ms Farrer for beginning the push for a change to WA's State Constitution. It's well and truly overdue. We look forward to the day Aboriginal people are officially recognised as the traditional custodians of this land.