interior face of the first part of the housing forms a cam surface with which the packing element engages when compressed by the actuating part.

15. The blow out preventer of any preceding claim further including a fluid pressure actuated locking part which is provided in an aperture extending from the exterior of the housing to the interior of the housing, and which is movable from a retracted position in which the locking part does not extend into the interior of the housing to a locking position in which the locking part extends into the interior of the housing.

16. A blow out preventer stack comprising a plurality of blow out preventers in accordance with any of the preceding claims, the blow out preventers being arranged such that the longitudinal axis of each lies on a single line.

17. A blow out preventer stack according to claim 16 wherein the first part of the housing of a first blow out preventer is integrally formed with the second part of the housing of a second blow out preventer.

18. A blow out preventer stack according to claim 17 wherein the exterior of the housing is provided with a shoulder which joins ~~the~~ a smaller diameter portion of the first part of the housing of the first blow out preventer with the second part of the housing of the second blow out preventer, the second part having a smaller external diameter than the first part.

19. A blow out preventer stack according to claim 18 wherein at least one of the fluid flow passages in the housing of the first blow out preventer may be connected to a fluid flow passage in the housing of the second blow out preventer via a pipe at least a portion of which is external to the housing.

20. A blow out preventer stack according to claim 19 wherein the pipe extends from a shoulder between the second part of the housing of the second blow out preventer and a smaller outer diameter portion of the first part of the housing of the first blow out preventer and a shoulder between the smaller

outer diameter portion and a larger outer diameter portion of the first part of the housing of the first blow out preventer.

~~21. A blow out preventer stack comprising three annular blow out preventers coaxially arranged around the longitudinal axis of the blow out preventer stack.~~

~~22. A blow out preventer stack according to claim 21 wherein each blow out preventer comprises a housing having a first part and a second part, an annular packing element and an actuating part which is movable generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the blow out preventer to push the packing element into engagement with the first part of the housing, compression of the packing element against the first part of the housing causing the diameter of the space enclosed by the packing element to decrease.~~

~~23. A blow out preventer stack according to claim 22 wherein the internal diameter of the first part of the housing increases from a first port to a second port so that the interior face of the first part of the housing forms a cam surface with which the packing element engages when compressed by the actuating part.~~

~~24. A blow out preventer stack according to claim 21 wherein at least one of the blow out preventers has any of the features set out in claims 1 to 19.~~

~~25. A blow out preventer comprising a housing, and a fluid pressure actuated locking part which is provided in an aperture extending from the exterior of the housing to the interior of the housing, and which is movable from a retracted position in which the locking part does not extend into the interior of the housing to a locking position in which the locking part extends into the interior of the housing.~~

~~26. A blow out preventer according to claim 25 wherein two fluid pressure operated locking parts are provided, the two fluid pressure operated locking parts being separated longitudinally relative to the housing.~~

~~27. A blow out preventer according to claims 25 or 26 having any of the features set out in claims 1 to 20.~~

~~28. A blow out preventer assembly including the blow out preventer of claim 25 and a tubular component which is located in a central passage of the blow out preventer housing, the locking part when in its locking position, engaging with the tubular component to prevent or restrict translational movement of the tubular component along the central passage of the blow out preventer housing.~~

~~29. A blow out preventer assembly according to claim 28 wherein the blow out preventer includes first and second fluid pressure operated locking parts, the two fluid pressure operated locking parts being separated longitudinally relative to the housing, the first locking part when in its locking position, engaging with the tubular component to prevent or restrict translational movement of the tubular component in a first direction along the central passage of the blow out preventer housing, and the second locking part, when in its locking position, engaging with the tubular component to prevent or restrict translational movement of the tubular component in a second direction along the central passage of the blow out preventer housing.~~