

17 Conclusion



17.1 Introduction

This Draft EIS/ERMP is the primary source of information for the public and regulatory decision-makers in their assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Gorgon Development.

During the course of preparing this Draft EIS/ERMP, the Gorgon Joint Venturers have considered and evaluated the environmental, social and economic issues that may arise from the proposed Gorgon Development using a rigorous risk-based assessment approach. These issues are relevant to the *Environmental Protection Act 1996* (WA), the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth) and the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981* (Commonwealth) and were identified in the Guidelines for an Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Scoping Document for an Environmental Review and Management Programme (the Scoping Document) (ChevronTexaco Australia 2004).

The major ecological issues investigated during the environmental assessment process were:

- biodiversity and conservation values of Barrow Island and its surrounding waters
- quarantine management
- disposal of reservoir CO₂ by injection into the Dupuy Formation.

As demonstrated throughout this Draft EIS/ERMP, particularly in Chapters 10–15, a number of environmental and socio-economic factors were assessed in accordance with the Scoping Document. The critical factors for assessment were identified in consultation with stakeholders during the Environmental, Social and Economic Review (ESE Review) process that preceded this environmental impact assessment. The overall approach to the environmental assessment involved identifying impacts requiring assessment; developing strategies to avoid, mitigate and/or manage impacts; and assessing the significance of any residual impacts.

The Gorgon Joint Venturers are committed to adopting specific management measures that will protect the conservation values of Barrow Island and the Development area. The management measures, which are described throughout the Draft EIS/ERMP, particularly in Chapters 10–14, will reduce to acceptable levels the environmental risks associated with the Gorgon Development. To assist regulatory agencies, stakeholders and other interested readers, a consolidated list of commitments is provided in General Appendix B. In addition to those specific commitments, the design, construction and operation of the Gorgon Development will be guided by ten principles of conduct as outlined in Table 17-1. These principles relate to the outcomes of the Gorgon Joint Venturers' assessment, as well as the requirements and objectives for managing the environmental and socio-economic factors associated with the proposed Development.



Table 17-1:
Principles of Conduct for Management of the Gorgon Development

Legislative Compliance	The Gorgon Joint Venturers will design, construct and operate the Gorgon Development in a manner that complies with all relevant legislation.
Sustainable Development	The Gorgon Joint Venturers will design, construct and operate the Gorgon Development in a manner that is consistent with its ten Sustainability Principles.
Footprint Compliance	The Gorgon Joint Venturers will design, construct and operate the Gorgon Development in a manner that complies with the <i>Barrow Island Act 2003</i> , under which no more than 300 ha of uncleared land is available to this or any future gas processing developments on Barrow Island.
Biodiversity Protection	The Gorgon Joint Venturers will design, construct and operate the Gorgon Development in a manner that maintains ecological structure and function, protects biological diversity and the integrity of populations of listed species.
Quarantine Management	The Gorgon Joint Venturers will adopt a comprehensive quarantine management system to reduce the risks to the conservation values of Barrow Island and surrounding waters to acceptable levels.
Greenhouse Gas Management	The Gorgon Joint Venturers will adopt currently applied best practice greenhouse efficiency measures in the design, construction and operation of the Gorgon Development and will inject reservoir CO ₂ into the Dupuy Formation below Barrow Island unless it is technically infeasible or cost-prohibitive.
Cultural Heritage Management	The Gorgon Joint Venturers will design, construct and operate the Gorgon Development in a manner that recognises and manages sites of cultural importance.
Management System Implementation	The Gorgon Joint Ventures will implement an Environmental Management System that is consistent with internationally accepted standards and incorporates best practice environmental management as part of a program of continuous improvement. Specific environmental management measures will be documented in an integrated series of Environmental Management Plans developed during the current phase of design in consultation with regulatory agencies.

Table 17-1: (continued)

Principles of Conduct for Management of the Gorgon Development

Stakeholder Engagement	The Gorgon Joint Venturers will seek the views of stakeholders and give due consideration to their interests in the design, construction and operation of the Gorgon Development.
Transparency	The Gorgon Joint Venturers will make the results of environmental baseline surveys, environmental assessments and monitoring programs available to government agencies, scientific organisations, academic institutions, industry groups and the public to further the understanding of the ecology of the Development area.

If approval for the proposed Development is granted by the relevant ministers, the Gorgon Joint Venturers will be required to meet a range of commitments and obligations under the State Agreement of the *Barrow Island Act 2003* as outlined in Chapter 2. Additional environmental assessment and management requirements would also apply to the Development under state and federal legislation.

17.1.1 Gorgon Development Sustainability Principles

During the ESE Review process, the Gorgon Joint Venturers established a three-tiered sustainability review process, which covered the fundamental environmental, social and economic considerations required to comprehensively review the sustainability of the proposed Development (ChevronTexaco Australia 2003). The sustainability principles for the proposed Development are outlined in Chapter 1.

There are two key features of this approach to sustainability: firstly, an integrated approach to the wider economic, social, and environmental implications of the proposed Development was taken by considering these factors within a single sustainability framework; and secondly, a long-term rather than short-term view was taken when considering the implications of the proposed Development. Both of these features are reflected in this Draft EIS/ERMP and the Gorgon Joint Venturers' environmental management objectives for the proposed Development (Chapter 16).

The five principles of ecologically sustainable development defined under the EPBC Act are:

- decision-making processes should effectively integrate both long-term and short-term economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations
- if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation
- the principle of inter-generational equity – that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations
- the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration in decision-making
- improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms should be promoted.

These principles are also captured in the *Environmental Protection Act 1996* (which also incorporates a principle related to waste minimisation).

The Gorgon Joint Venturers believe that the intent of each of these principles is embodied in the Gorgon Development's Sustainability Principles. In particular, there is close alignment with the principles of Future Generations Commitment, Precautionary Principle Application, Social Equity and Community Wellbeing Enhancement and Waste Minimisation. The Gorgon Joint Venturers' approach to sustainability is also in keeping with the Western Australian Government's sustainability foundation and process principles as defined by the Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy (Government of Western Australia 2003).

The Gorgon Joint Venturers are committed to sustainable development and to meeting each of the ten Gorgon Development sustainability principles by integrating them into its policies, practices and procedures. The Gorgon Joint Venturers' progress toward sustainability will be assessed through an annual sustainability reporting process which will utilise the sustainability criteria and measurement statements developed during the ESE Review process to measure the Gorgon Venture's performance against each of the sustainability principles.

17.1.2 Development Area on Barrow Island

If environmental and State Agreement approval for construction of a gas processing facility on Barrow Island is granted, the area allowed for new disturbance will be limited to a total of 300 ha. Of that area, 50 ha have been set aside for petroleum pipeline easements and 150 ha reserved until 31 December 2009 for the Gorgon Joint Venturers. The remaining 100 ha is reserved for other projects to process or use gas from the Title Areas or the Greater Gorgon area. A lease for gas processing would be granted under the *Land Administration Act 1997* for a period of 60 years but this land would remain part of the Class A Nature Reserve. The lease would be subject to local government (Shire of Ashburton) rates.

17.1.3 Emissions Associated with the Proposed Development

Air emissions from the proposed Development will meet or measure below established standards including those of the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and the National Environmental Protection Measure (NEPM) requirements. Noise emissions from the Development will meet or better standards set for workers and residences. Light emissions were modelled with design and management options to reduce light spill so that appropriate lighting measures can be incorporated into construction practice as well as the detailed design and operating philosophy.

The risk of a hydrocarbon spill from the proposed Development is low as the reservoir gas has a low percentage of liquid hydrocarbons, and robust design and engineering standards and construction and operation management and maintenance will be implemented. Credible scenarios of spills associated with the proposed Development have been modelled and will be used to assist with contingency and response planning.

17.1.4 Ecological Assessment

Under the *Environmental Protection Act 1996* of Western Australia, the Gorgon Joint Venturers were required to assess significant impacts to the environment as a potential result of the proposed Development. Under the Commonwealth EPBC Act, three matters of National Environmental Significance (NES), relevant to the proposed Gorgon Development, were assessed:

- nationally threatened species and ecological communities
- listed migratory species
- Commonwealth marine areas.

As highlighted in the ESE Review (ChevronTexaco 2003), the most critical environmental issues associated with the proposed Gorgon Development are risks to the biodiversity and conservation values of Barrow Island and the surrounding waters; the threat of accidentally introducing non-indigenous species ('quarantine'); and the disposal of reservoir carbon dioxide (CO₂) by injection.

A risk-based approach was applied to identify and assess the most significant risks to Barrow Island's conservation values, following the recommendation of the EPA to develop a set of standards for acceptable risks to the conservation values of Barrow Island and demonstrate that these standards could be met with a high level of confidence. This process was undertaken in accordance with Australian standards for risk management and widely accepted best practice in environmental risk assessment.

17.2 Outcomes of the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Proposed Gorgon Development

The main outcomes of the environmental impact assessment are outlined in the following sections and are structured to mirror that of the preceding chapters.

17.2.1 Terrestrial Risks and Management

A summary of the potential stressors and assessed level of residual risk to terrestrial environmental factors is presented in Table 17-2. The residual risks posed by stressors associated with each phase of the Development were assessed as low to medium for all environmental factors except subterranean fauna. In each of the cases where residual risks were low to medium, the potential consequences to the terrestrial ecology of Barrow Island are unlikely to be long-term and with implementation of proposed management measures, pose an overall acceptable level of risk to the conservation values of Barrow Island and meet the environmental management objectives for the Development.

Preliminary assessment of risks to subterranean fauna from clearing and earthworks, noise and vibration and physical presence of the gas processing facility found residual risk associated with these stressors to be high. However, it is important to note that this level of risk primarily reflects uncertainty in the absence of final sampling data on the diversity and distribution of subterranean fauna in the Development area. Although a conservative risk assessment indicates there to be some high risk stressors to subterranean fauna, it is anticipated that further information from the current sampling program will provide a clearer model of the wider distribution of the subterranean taxa. If their distribution is found to be wider than assumed for the preliminary assessment, it will reduce this risk level.

The ongoing sampling and analysis program of subterranean fauna conducted for this environmental impact assessment is one of the most comprehensive in Australia. The information obtained is making a major contribution to this field of science. Publication of future results of the program will further contribute to this knowledge.

The measures described to manage impacts to terrestrial environmental factors will maintain ecological structure and function, and protect the terrestrial biodiversity and the integrity of populations of listed species that naturally inhabit Barrow Island.

17.2.2 Marine Risks and Management

The residual risks posed by stressors associated with each phase of the Development were assessed as low to medium for all marine environmental factors except for marine fauna where the implementation and effectiveness of management measures for light and dredging will be critical to reducing risks to sea turtles to an acceptable level (Table 17-3). The potential environmental consequences of the Development are unlikely to have long-term implications for the marine environment surrounding Barrow Island or the mainland components of the Development. The overall level of risk to marine conservation values is therefore considered to be acceptable and environmental management objectives for the Development achievable.

The Gorgon Joint Venturers are committed to reducing potential impacts on turtles and have conducted extensive research on understanding the impact of light on turtles. A range of management measures, including a commitment to lighting management strategy that is at the level of world-best practice, will be implemented to avoid or minimise impacts to turtles.

The management measures proposed to manage impacts to marine environmental factors will maintain ecological structure and function, and protect the biodiversity and the integrity of populations of listed species that naturally inhabit the marine environs of the Development area.

The location for disposing of dredge spoil has been selected to avoid significant marine flora and coral communities. The detailed management plan for dredging will require approval by regulatory agencies.

Permanent loss of benthic primary producer habitats are predicted to exceed EPA cumulative loss threshold levels in three of the fourteen management units established in accordance with EPA Guidance Statement No. 29. While these losses exceed the benthic primary producer habitat cumulative loss threshold levels, they do not represent a threat to the ecological integrity of the surrounding benthic primary producer habitat or to the conservation values of the Barrow Island Marine Conservation Area.

Losses of unconfirmed coral habitat in the two Lowendal Islands management units also exceed cumulative loss thresholds; however the majority of the assumed distribution of coral habitat in these management units, as identified by the CALM (2004)

Table 17-2:
Summary of Residual Risk Levels to Terrestrial Environmental Factors

Environmental Factor/Stressor	Residual Risk		
	Construction and Commissioning	Operations	Non-routine
Soil and Landform			
• Clearing and earthworks	M	L	–
• Liquid and solid waste disposal	M	L	–
• Leaks or spills	M	M	–
Surface and Groundwater			
• Clearing and earthworks	M	L	–
• Physical presence	M	M	–
• Liquid and solid waste disposal	M	L	–
• Leaks or spills	M	M	–
Air Quality			
• Atmospheric emissions	L	L	L
• Clearing and earthworks	L	L	–
Flora and Vegetation Communities			
• Clearing and earthworks (restricted flora and vegetation communities)	M	L	–
• Clearing and earthworks (general flora and vegetation communities)	L	L	–
• Fire	M	M	–
• Atmospheric emissions	L	L	L
• Light/shading/heat/cold	L	L	–
• Dust	L	L	–
• Unpredicted CO ₂ migration	–	–	L
• Leaks or spills	L	L	–
Terrestrial Fauna			
• Clearing and earthworks	M	L	–
• Physical interaction	M	M	–
• Leaks or spills	L	L	–
• Light or shade	L	L	–
• Atmospheric emissions	L	L	L
• Dust	L	L	–
• Unpredicted CO ₂ migration	–	–	L
• Heat and/or cold	L	L	–
• Noise and vibration	L	M	–
• Fire	M	M	–
Subterranean Fauna			
• Clearing and earthworks	H*	L	–
• Physical presence	–	H*	–
• Wastewater discharge	H*	–	–
• Noise and vibration	H*	–	–
• Leaks or spills	M	M	–
• Unpredicted CO ₂ migration	–	M	–

* Risk level driven by conservative assumption related to uncertainty of species distribution.

Table 17-3:
Summary of Residual Risk Levels to Marine Environmental Factors

Environmental Factor/ Stressor	Residual Risk		
	Construction and Commissioning	Operations	Non-routine
Seabed (subtidal and intertidal)			
• Physical disturbance	L – M	L	–
• Physical presence	–	L	–
• Liquid and solid waste disposal	L	L	–
• Leaks or spills (minor <10 m ³)	L	L	–
• Leaks or spills (>10 m ³)	L	L	–
Water Quality			
• Discharges	L	L	–
• Leaks or spills (minor <10 m ³)	L	L	–
• Leaks or spills (>10 m ³)	L	L	–
Foreshore			
• Physical disturbance	M	L	–
• Physical presence	–	L	–
Marine Primary Producers			
• Seabed disturbance	L – M	L	–
• Leaks or spills (minor <10 m ³)	–	–	L – M
• Leaks or spills (>10 m ³)	–	–	L – M
• Physical presence	L	L	–
• Wastewater and other discharges	L	L	–
Marine Fauna			
• Seabed disturbance	M	L	–
• Physical interaction	M	M	–
• Physical presence	–	L	–
• Wastewater discharges	L	L	–
• Light	M – H	M – H	L
• Noise and vibration	M	L	–
• Leaks or spills (minor <10 m ³)	M	M	–
• Leaks or spills (>10 m ³)	M	M	–

marine habitat mapping, has not been confirmed by field surveys. It is anticipated that only a small proportion of the areas affected by persistent turbid plumes represent coral habitat and that these coral communities would fully recover from sedimentation and turbidity impacts.

The Gorgon Joint Venturers will develop and adopt a monitoring and management program designed to restrict the potential effects of HDD, dredging and dredge spoil disposal. The monitoring and management program will be developed in consultation with the Commonwealth and Western Australia state agencies. This will form part of the drilling, dredging and dredge spoil disposal monitoring and management plan for the Development.

17.2.3 Quarantine Risks and Management

The Gorgon Joint Venturers are committed to a quarantine management regime of sufficient rigour to continue to protect conservation values throughout the construction and operation of the proposed Development. To do this, the Gorgon Joint Venturers have addressed the EPA's advice (EPA 2003) to:

- develop a set of standards for acceptable risk ('risk standards')
- demonstrate to the EPA, under advice from the Department of Environment and the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), that the risk standards can be met with a high very level of confidence.

Established risk management practices have been adapted to address potential quarantine threats to the conservation values of Barrow Island. The approach taken is consistent with EPA advice as it has engaged independent technical experts to develop and undertake a risk-based quarantine management process, and has involved the community in a transparent manner in the development of acceptable risk standards. This approach involved establishing an independent Quarantine Expert Panel and a community consultation process.

The Gorgon Joint Venturers have developed a set of standards for acceptable risks to the conservation values of Barrow Island. Compliance to these standards would mean that the risk of establishment of a non-indigenous species would be acceptably low. Development of the risk standards involved expert advice and a significant level of community consultation over a period of 18 months. Standards for acceptable risk for terrestrial flora and fauna have been developed directly from these standards. The risk standards have also been used as a starting point to protect the conservation values of Barrow Island from potential threats of accidental introductions of non-indigenous micro-organisms and marine organisms.

The Gorgon Joint Venturers are committed to the implementation of the Barrow Island Quarantine Policy, the Quarantine Management System and ongoing application of the risk-based approach for assessment and management of quarantine risks. Furthermore, the advice of independent experts will continue to play an integral role in the future development of quarantine management options. This will apply particularly to the development and execution of baseline surveys, longer-term environmental monitoring, and development of eradication strategies. It is intended that Joint Venturer and stakeholder responsibilities and authority for quarantine management will also be formalised through the Barrow Island Coordination Council which will engage key government agencies such as CALM in quarantine management activities.

As a result of the quarantine program over the past 40 years, Barrow Island is the only island in the region free from introduced species such as cats, rabbits, rats and mice. The implementation of the Quarantine Management System will also ensure that quarantine barriers are maintained and that their effectiveness is regularly reviewed and improved. Demonstrations of how barriers will be implemented have been provided for the three priority pathways.

The implementation of a Quarantine Management System, in accordance with the risk-based and consultative approach discussed in Chapter 12, will deliver new performance benchmarks for quarantine management, and provide an unprecedented level of protection for the conservation values of Barrow Island.

17.2.4 Greenhouse Gas Risks and Management

The Gorgon Joint Venturers' commitment to the responsible management of greenhouse gas emissions is evidenced by the results of benchmarking the anticipated LNG emissions efficiency performance from the Gorgon Development with other LNG facilities. There is currently one operating LNG facility in Australia and another under construction. The expected performance of 0.35 tonnes of CO₂e per tonne LNG to be produced (based on the reference case assumptions) exceeds both these facilities when greenhouse emissions related to gas production are considered.

As part of the strategy to minimise greenhouse gas emissions, the Gorgon Joint Venturers are proposing to inject the CO₂ contained in the reservoir gas stream into the Dupuy Formation below Barrow Island. Appropriate monitoring of the injected CO₂ is planned to assist with the ongoing management of the CO₂ injection operations. The proposed injection of the reservoir CO₂ will reduce greenhouse gas emissions attributable to the Development (including domestic gas production) from 6.7 million tonnes per annum of CO₂ equivalent (MTPA CO₂e) to 4.0 MTPA CO₂e.

Additional activities to be undertaken with the objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the Gorgon Development include:

- Undertaking further studies into the electrical generation gas turbine and waste heat recovery configuration.
- Investigating the further integration of the Gorgon Development and the Barrow Island Joint Venture activities on Barrow Island, with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Undertaking energy optimisation studies during the detailed engineering and design of the Development. Energy optimisation is a way to identify, understand, and optimise energy use over the operating life of a project.
- Developing operational and maintenance procedures with the objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions below those in the reference case and in line with the performance targets. Maximising the percentage of reservoir CO₂ injected will be a primary focus in developing these operational and maintenance procedures.
- Once the gas processing facility is operational, undertake Energy Optimisation Studies in line with requirements in Chevron Australia's Operational Excellence Management System.

- Continuing to support research into CO₂ capture and storage technology development within Australia and overseas. Potential for provision of data from the Gorgon Development.

The Gorgon Joint Venturers have developed a series of longer term performance targets with the objective of further reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the proposed Development.

17.2.5 Potential Social Benefits and Risks

The Development will generally benefit the livelihoods and lifestyles of the Pilbara community in terms of employment and local business opportunities. At the current level of planning, the positive consequences will be enhanced through a range of management measures, including the Gorgon Joint Venturers':

- commitment to provide full, fair and reasonable opportunity for Australian industry to supply goods and services to the Development through the Australian Industry Participation Policy
- initiatives for local procurement/content, employment and training which will be outlined in the Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) in consultation with major construction contractors and stakeholder groups
- continued consultation/liason with local government and others through community groups in the region.

There is a strong linkage between the social and economic benefits of the proposed Development. It has been identified that the most significant benefits will be economic with the details addressed in Chapter 15. The major Development benefits will be the substantial input into the Australian economy through increased taxation revenues, direct spending, opportunity for local government rating, increased security of supply and availability of natural gas, employment and training initiatives, incremental improvement in the capacity of the economy and the labour force to absorb major oil and gas projects and opportunities for increased participation by indigenous people. The Gorgon Joint Venturers aim to work with Australian companies who can assist in building and delivering a world-class competitive and safe Development.

The major adverse social risks identified for the Development apply to:

- cultural heritage (low to potentially high risk depending on the Development phase)

- Native Title (high – but only for the domestic pipeline option to the mainland and a segment of optical fibre communication cable)
- workforce and family through implementation of a fly-in fly-out regime (high).

Medium social risks apply to visual amenity and the general health and safety of the workforce on Barrow Island.

Results from modelling of pipeline and gas processing facility risks indicate that the level of individual risk to public health in areas potentially classified as residential (construction village) will be below the one in a million per year ($1 \times 10^{-6}/y$) EPA risk criteria. As the construction village may be later used to house personnel working on facility additions or maintenance, it is deemed to be a residential area for planning purposes. For pipelines, residential development would need to be within 40 m of the operating pipeline to be at risk. Planned alignment of all pipelines is well outside of the 40 m zone. For the gas processing facility, the residential development would need to be within 400 m of the major refrigerant storage vessels (propane and ethane storage). Currently the construction village is proposed to be located approximately 750 m from these vessels.

17.2.6 Potential Economic Benefits

Results from economic modelling studies indicate that the Gorgon Development will generate substantial, positive economic benefits for Australia and Western Australia. These benefits will be driven by export income generated by the Development, the amount of money spent in the local economy, and the taxes and royalties paid by the Gorgon Joint Venturers, associated businesses and individuals. It is expected that the Gorgon Development will contribute approximately \$11 billion in investment expenditure at today's prices and pay \$17 billion in taxes and royalties over the life of the Development. The Development will stimulate 6000 jobs nationally, of which 1700 will be in the Western Australian workforce. It is estimated that more than 10% of the construction and operational workforce could be sourced from the Pilbara region. This workforce will create flow-on economic benefits through spending in the region.

The Gorgon Development will provide the impetus for the expansion of existing services and industries and attract a number of new ones. It will help underpin the development of new technologies and skills, for example in disposal of CO₂ by injection and subsea technology, thereby creating regional capacity for future growth. The proposed Development will also underpin a second major gas supply to the mainland for domestic industry.

Development of the Gorgon gas field could lead to further development of other regional gas resources, extending and expanding the benefits of the initial Development.

17.2.7 Environmental Management System

The Gorgon Joint Venturers are committed to protecting the conservation values of Barrow Island and the Development area during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Gorgon Development. To assist in meeting this commitment a comprehensive Environmental Management System (EMS) will be developed that is consistent with recognised international standards and Chevron's Operational Excellence Management System. As part of this process an integrated series of Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) will be developed progressively through three related stages: A Framework EMP (Appendix A of this document); the detailed EMP series; and Environmental Management Implementation Procedures to be developed by the engineering and construction contractor.

Adequate resources will be committed to implement and monitor an effective EMS with clearly defined responsibilities and authorities. The Gorgon Joint Venturers are confident that thoughtful implementation and strict adherence to the EMS and EMPs by the Gorgon Development Team and its contractors, subcontractors and suppliers will protect the conservation values of Barrow Island and the proposed Development area for current and future generations.

17.3 Stakeholder Engagement and Way Forward

Comprehensive and effective community consultation, engagement and participation have been, and remain, key elements of the proposed Gorgon Development. Community involvement will continue throughout all stages of the proposed Development and, where relevant, will be incorporated into the Social Impact Management Plan pursuant to the State Agreement.

The Gorgon Joint Venturers will continue to meet with stakeholders, answer questions and seek feedback throughout the environmental approval process. The federal and state government review of this Draft EIS/ERMP document and the 10-week public comment period will provide stakeholders with further opportunity to provide formal input into the environmental approvals process. As part of this approach, additional information on subterranean fauna, quarantine barriers and field verification of the dredge plume model will be published during the public comment period.

As an integral component of their commitment to transparency, the Gorgon Joint Venturers will make the results of environmental baseline surveys, environmental assessments and monitoring programs available to government agencies, scientific organisations, academic institutions, industry groups and the public to further the understanding of the ecology of the proposed Development area.

The Gorgon Joint Venturers recognise that the proposed Development is of national significance and believe that, if the \$11 billion proposed Development is granted environmental approval, implementation of the management measures proposed throughout this document will continue to protect the conservation values of Barrow Island, whilst contributing \$17 billion to government revenue, creating 6000 jobs across Australia and stimulating significant future regional Development.