

Gorgon Expert Panels

At the end of 2008 the Gorgon Expert Panels were established. The establishment of these Expert Panels are a requirement of the Project's Ministerial Statement No. 800, issued by the Western Australian Minister for Environment pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA)*.

The Gorgon Gas Development Expert Panels are the:

- Quarantine Expert Panel (QEP)
- Marine Turtle Expert Panel (MTEP)
- Construction Dredging Environmental Expert Panel (CDEEP)

The objective of these Expert Panels is to assist with the successful planning and execution of the Gorgon Project by providing advice to the Proponent (Chevron Australia Pty Ltd) and the Minister in relation to the defined subject matters. Specifically each panel will provide advice, relevant to their subject matter, on management and monitoring, including advice on the development and implementation of the relevant Systems and Plans prepared and submitted in accordance with State and Commonwealth conditions of approval.

The Western Australian Minister for Environment (the Minister) set-out the process within Ministerial Statement No. 800 by which the three Expert Panels would be established. In accordance with these requirements the Proponent completed the process of seeking and obtaining the appointment of panel members, and provision of reasonable funding to support their function.

Each Expert Panel is led by an independent chairperson and comprises State and Commonwealth government department representatives, independent subject matter experts and Chevron representatives. In consultation with Chevron, the Minister for Environment has appointed three highly regarded and experienced independent chairpersons, as well as the independent experts. The Chairpersons, with the assistance of the Expert Panel Secretariat, will oversee the management and function of these panels. They independent chairpersons are:

- Dr Roy Green AO (QEP)
- Mr Stuart Hicks AO (CDEEP)
- Mr Simon Woodley (MTEP)

The Terms of Reference for each Panel were developed in consultation with the Independent Chairs and Panel Members, and have been endorsed by the State Minister for Environment. Operating Guidelines for the Panels have also been developed, which support the governance and conduct of the Panels in fulfilling their function as described in their respective Terms of Reference.

To support the philosophy of the Panels being one of transparency of operations a Gorgon Expert Panel Website, accessible by the general public, has been established. The Website contains information on each of the Expert Panels including their Terms of Reference and Panel Members, and other information considered appropriate by the Proponent and the Minister.