



# History of Barrow Island



Barrow Island was part of the Australian mainland until about 8,000 to 10,000 years ago when rising sea levels created the second largest island off the Western Australian coast.

The first European record of the island was in a Dutch East India company map in 1628. The wreck of the British East India Company ship Tryal just north of Barrow Island in 1622 is Western Australia's first recorded shipwreck.

In 1818, Lieutenant Phillip Parker King, who was surveying the North West Australian coast, named the island after John Barrow, a secretary of the British Admiralty. By 1840 observations of flora and fauna were being recorded and various specimens collected.

In 1871, the first lease on Barrow Island was granted for turtle fishing. Subsequent leases were for "tortoise" (turtle) shell and oil, fishing and pastoral purposes, but it appears most leases were forfeited. It is likely there was no significant effort to settle the island because of the lack of surface water and distance from the mainland (60 km).

Barrow Island became a public reserve for flora and fauna in 1908, a classification upgraded to a Class A Nature Reserve in 1910.

## Barrow Island Historic Timeline

- 1947:** First exploration permit issued to Australian Motorists Petrol Company (Ampol).
- 1951:** Chevron begins searching for oil in WA under the Caltex banner.
- 1952:** Caltex join with Ampol to form West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd (WAPET).
- 1964:** WAPET announces oil discovery on Barrow

Island as first oil flowed from Barrow No. 1.

**1966:** Mining leases over the island granted to WAPET and legislation passed in the WA Parliament to allow petroleum activities on Barrow Island.

**1967:** Naturalist Harry Butler appointed as conservation consultant. First shipment of oil leaves Barrow Island.

**1980:** The Gorgon field discovered in deep water west of Barrow Island.

**2000:** Chevron Australia becomes operator of exploration and production assets managed by WAPET.

**2003:** WA State Government provides in-principle approval for Gorgon's onshore gas plant to be based at Barrow Island.

**2007:** The State and Federal Governments award environmental approvals for a 10 million tonne per annum (MTPA) LNG Plant and domestic gas plant on Barrow Island.

**2008:** Chevron announces it's working with government to secure approvals for a revised and expanded 15 MTPA LNG Plant.

**2009:** The WA Environmental Protection Authority recommends the expanded Project proceeds on Barrow Island subject to certain conditions.

Final environmental approvals awarded and a final investment decision (FID) is made on the Gorgon Project.

The Gorgon Project welcomes three new Joint Venture Participants - Osaka Gas, Tokyo Gas and Chubu Electric Power.

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For more information on the Gorgon Project:

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