

Main Report

Volume I

Draft

Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Review and Management Programme

for the Proposed Gorgon Development



September 2005

Disclaimer

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Review and Management Programme (Draft EIS/ERMP) has been prepared by Chevron Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of the Gorgon Joint Venturers. In preparing the Draft EIS/ERMP, Chevron Australia has relied on information provided by specialist consultants, government agencies and other third parties who are identified in the Draft EIS/ERMP. Chevron Australia has not verified the accuracy or completeness of the findings, conclusions and observations of these consultants, government agencies and other third parties, except where expressly acknowledged in the Draft EIS/ERMP.

Note on Name Change

During the production of this Draft EIS/ERMP, ChevronTexaco Corporation changed its name to Chevron Corporation. As a consequence of this, ChevronTexaco Australia Pty Ltd changed its name to Chevron Australia Pty Ltd.

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Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Review and Management Programme

for the Proposed Gorgon Development

September 2005

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Invitation to Comment

The Proposal

The Gorgon Joint Venturers propose to develop the Gorgon gas field that lies approximately 130 km off the north-west coast of Western Australia.

The proposed Gorgon Development is based on the installation of a subsea gathering system and a 70 km subsea pipeline to Barrow Island. The associated gas processing facility will be located at the central-east coast of the island. It is proposed to inject carbon dioxide, which occurs naturally in the reservoir, into deep formations below the island. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) will then be transported by ship to international markets. Domestic gas will be delivered to the Western Australian mainland through a subsea pipeline for use in industrial and domestic markets.

Assessment Process

Following referral of the Development in November 2003, the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) and the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) determined that the proposed Gorgon Development should be formally assessed at the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Review and Management Programme (ERMP) levels, respectively.

The Commonwealth and Western Australian governments have agreed to a coordinated environmental assessment process. A single EIS/ERMP document that satisfies the requirements of each jurisdiction is required under this process. An Executive Summary is available as a separate document.

The Joint Venturers have prepared this Draft EIS and ERMP (Draft EIS/ERMP) in accordance with the EPA and DEH requirements as set out in the environmental scoping document and guidelines (ChevronTexaco Australia 2004). This Draft EIS/ERMP is being placed on public exhibition for 10-weeks during which time public submissions will be sought. The DEH and EPA will assess the Draft EIS/ERMP following receipt of public submissions, and the Joint Venturers' response to those submissions, before reporting to relevant Ministers for a final decision on whether the Development should be approved and if so, under what conditions.

Availability of the Draft EIS/ERMP for Public Comment

This Draft EIS/ERMP is available for public comment from 12 September 2005 until 21 November 2005. It can be viewed at the Gorgon Australian Gas website (www.gorgon.com.au) and at the following locations:

Department of Environment Library
Level 8, Westralia Square Building
141 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000



Department of Industry and Resources
1st Floor, 100 Plain St
East Perth WA 6000

Research and Information Centre
Department of Industry and Resources
1 Adelaide Terrace
East Perth WA 6000

Department of the Environment and Heritage Library
John Gorton Building
King Edward Terrace
Parkes ACT 2600

Ashburton Shire Council
Onslow Public Library
Second Avenue
Onslow WA 6710

Karratha Community Library
Millstream Road
Karratha WA 6714

Battye Library
Alexander Library Building
25 Francis Street
Perth WA 6000

The Executive Summary of the Draft EIS/ERMP is available free of charge. The Main Report (Volumes I and II) and the set of Technical Appendices are available at a cost of \$10 each. These can be obtained

from Chevron Australia by telephoning the Gorgon Australian Gas Health, Environment and Safety Administration Assistant on 08 9216 4000 or emailing your request to gorgon.info@chevron.com.

Submission Process

Individuals and organisations are invited by the EPA and DEH to submit comments on this Draft EIS/ERMP. A submission may include comments, provide information, and/or express opinions about the information presented in the document. It will be useful if you include any suggestions that you have to improve the proposal.

Reasons for conclusions stated in the submission should be stated clearly and supported by relevant data. The source of your information should also be included where applicable. Comments from the public will assist government in making their decision.

All submissions received by the agencies will be acknowledged. Submissions will be treated as public documents unless provided and received in confidence subject to the requirements of the Commonwealth *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the Western Australian *Freedom of Information Act 1992*. Submissions may be quoted in full or in part of the agencies' reports.

The closing date for public submissions on this Draft EIS/ERMP is **21 November 2005**.



Submissions should be addressed to:

Chairman, Environmental Protection Authority
PO Box K822
Perth WA 6842

AND/OR

First Assistant Secretary
Approvals and Wildlife Division
Department of the Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 787
Canberra, ACT 2601

Why Write a Submission?

A submission is a way to provide information, express your opinion and put forward your suggested course of action – including any alternative approach. It is useful if you indicate any suggestions you have to improve the proposal.

Why Not Join a Group?

If you prefer not to write your own comments, it may be worthwhile joining with a group interested in making a submission on similar issues. Joint submissions may help to reduce the workload for an individual or group, as well as increase the pool of ideas and information. If you form a small group (up to 10 people) please indicate all the names of the participants. If your group is larger, please indicate how many people your submission represents.

Developing a Submission

You may agree or disagree with, or comment on, the general issues discussed in the Draft EIS/ERMP or the specific proposal. It helps if you give reasons for your conclusions, supported by relevant data. You may make an important contribution by suggesting ways to make the proposal more environmentally acceptable.

Submission Checklist

Comments should be in writing and:

- list points so that the issues raised are clear
- refer each point to the appropriate chapter and section in the Draft EIS/ERMP (e.g. Chapter 1, section 1.1)
- keep the discussion of different sections of the Draft EIS/ERMP distinct and separate
- include relevant, factual and supportive information with details of the source.

Also remember to:

- identify the Development (i.e. the Gorgon Development)
- provide your name, address and date of submission
- identify any special interest you have in the Development (where relevant)
- indicate whether your submission is to be kept confidential.

Foreword



On behalf of the Gorgon Joint Venturers, (Chevron Australia, Texaco Australia, Shell Development Australia and Mobil Australia Resources Company), I am pleased to present this Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Review and Management Programme for the proposed Gorgon Development. As the Commonwealth and Western Australian governments have agreed to a coordinated environmental assessment process, this document is designed to meet the assessment requirements of both jurisdictions.

The gas fields discovered in the Greater Gorgon area represent Australia's largest undeveloped gas resource. As the custodian of the resource, the Joint Venturers accept responsibility for developing this important national and state asset in a sustainable manner. A successful development will deliver substantial economic and social benefits to current and future generations of Australians, whilst also protecting the environmental values of the region and delivering net conservation benefits. This development will be the key to unlocking the vast Greater Gorgon area resources, which are equivalent to 25% of Australia's total known gas resources.

Restricted use of Barrow Island is central to the commercial viability of the development of the Greater Gorgon area gas fields. Exhaustive studies show there are no commercially viable development alternatives to this location. Barrow Island is an internationally significant nature reserve and the site of Australia's largest onshore operating oilfield. The Joint Venturers recognise the importance of the conservation values of Barrow Island and selected this location only after thoroughly assessing the viability of alternative locations.

The environmental management strategies developed to avoid or mitigate the potential impacts of the Gorgon Development will protect conservation and biodiversity values and enhance Chevron Australia's successful stewardship of Barrow Island. The Gorgon Development will also deliver a clean fuel that will increase security of gas supply and provide price competition for consumers. The proposed Development will stimulate economic activity and create jobs that will have flow-on social benefits. The potential beneficiaries of the Gorgon Development range from communities in the Pilbara and the state of Western Australia to the whole of the Australian nation and our international customers.

Chevron Australia, operator of the Barrow Island oilfield, has been involved in existing oilfield operations on the island for over 40 years. The management of these operations is widely recognised as a demonstration of the successful co-existence of petroleum operations and the protection and maintenance of conservation values.

Our success in managing oil operations on Barrow Island, as well as our diligence in preparing this plan, demonstrates our commitment to meeting our environmental responsibilities, whilst also meeting national and international clean energy demands.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James W Johnson'.

James W Johnson
Managing Director
Chevron Australia Pty Ltd

