

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 was required under this process. The Draft EIS/ERMP was prepared in accordance with EPA and DEH requirements as set out in the environmental

scoping document and guidelines (ChevronTexaco Australia 2004), and was released for public comment for a 10-week period commencing 12 September 2005.

This Additional Information Package contains supporting technical information that has become available since the release of the Draft EIS/ERMP. It is being made available to the public as a separate document. The DEH and EPA will assess the 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: Additional Information Package for Public Comment

Comments close on the Draft EIS/ERMP on 21 November 2005. This Draft EIS/ERMP: Additional Information Package is available for public comment from Monday 24 October 2005 until Monday 3 January 2006. It can be viewed at the Gorgon Australian Gas website www.gorgon.com.au or 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

This Draft EIS/ERMP: Additional Information Package is available free of charge. Extra copies can be obtained from Chevron Australia by telephoning the Gorgon 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 document. A submission may include comments, provide information, and/or express opinions about the information presented in the document. 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 the Draft EIS/ERMP: Additional Information Package is **Monday 3 January 2006**.

Submissions should be addressed to:

Chairman
Environmental Protection Authority
PO Box K822
Perth WA 6842

Copies of all submissions will be forwarded to The Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage.

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.

Submission Checklist

Comments should be in writing and:

- list points so that the issues raised are clear
- refer each point to the appropriate part and section in the Draft EIS/ERMP: Additional Information Package
- keep the discussion of different sections of the Draft EIS/ERMP: Additional Information Package 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.

1 Introduction

The Draft EIS/ERMP for the Gorgon Development was released for public comment on 12 September 2005. At the time of release of that document the following technical reports were not available:

- Dredge Plume Model – Field Validation Report
- Quarantine Pathways – Barrier Selection Report
- Subterranean Fauna – Species Identification Report

These technical reports provide the results of recent research and field survey work conducted by members of the Gorgon Development team and their specialist consultants and contractors, and have been collated in this single Additional Information Package. The content and purpose of each report is briefly summarised below.

The Additional Information Package has been published following negotiations between the Joint Venturers, the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage and the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority.

Part 4 of the Executive Summary of the Draft EIS/ERMP states that this Additional Information Package will be released for the last four weeks of the public review period as per an agreement between Chevron Australia, the Commonwealth Department of the Environment

and Heritage (DEH) and the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). However, an extension has been granted by the Western Australian Minister for the Environment, requiring the Additional Information Package to be available for comment for a 10-week public review period.

PART A ~ Dredge Plume Model – Field Validation Report

As stated in the Draft EIS/ERMP (Chapter 11), numerical modelling was undertaken to predict environmental impacts associated with the proposed dredging program. In order to verify this modelling, field validation studies have been undertaken. The results of these surveys are presented within this AIP. Results indicate that the numerical model predicted likely impacts to a reasonable degree of accuracy.

In addition to the Dredge Plume Model - Field Validation Report, a brief report of the findings of the reconnaissance survey work conducted concurrently with the modelling fieldwork has been included. This report provides ground-truthed data of the Benthic Primary Producer Habitat (previously unsurveyed) within the likely area of influence of the dredging proposal and re-assesses potential impacts.

PART B ~ Quarantine Pathways – Barrier Selection Report

This document provides additional information in support of Chapter 12 of the EIS/ERMP, Quarantine – Risks and Management. It provides details of the barriers that are proposed to meet the standards for acceptable risk on three priority pathways. The priority pathways were nominated by the Quarantine Expert Panel as presenting the greatest management challenge for meeting standards for acceptable risk, based on the results of risk assessment, expert opinion and community consultation. The three priority pathways are:

1. Food and perishables;
2. Personnel and accompanying luggage; and
3. Sand and aggregate.

The development of quarantine barriers on other pathways is proceeding, using exactly the same assessment process to develop barriers which will meet the standards for acceptable risk.

The barrier details presented here and assessed by independent technical specialists in Quarantine Hazard Analysis (QHAZ) workshops demonstrates how quarantine will be managed on the three priority pathways. The same risk-based assessment method will be used to develop quarantine barriers to meet the standards for acceptable risk on all other pathways for equipment and materials to be transported to Barrow Island.

PART C ~ Subterranean Fauna – Species Identification Report

This document presents the results of the latest phases of the sampling program for subterranean fauna.

In particular, the report outlines work completed to date on species identification of the 800+ individual specimens collected during field surveys. The results show distributions of subterranean fauna species across Barrow Island. Consistent with this trend, it is expected that further survey and identification work will demonstrate that species represented by one or two individuals occur both within and outside the Development area.