

experienced for some trades. Skills shortages may occur as a result of cumulative impacts.

The local workforce required for the Project is likely to benefit from training programs delivered as part of the proposed Project. This would produce a permanent lift in the skills of these workers and the capacity of regional labour forces to respond to future industrial projects.

CONSULTATION

Consultation and public disclosure are core components of QGC's business. Consultation is a two-way discussion process between QGC and stakeholders. Key objectives are to:

- inform stakeholders and interest groups about the Project, and provide regularly updated information
- explain the impact assessment methodology and provide an understanding of the regulatory approval process
- seek local information, an understanding of stakeholder concerns, and input to the assessment of project impacts and benefits
- develop mitigation strategies with cognisance to stakeholder views and objectives
- demonstrate how public input has influenced the EIS and its findings.

This consultation fulfils statutory requirements for consultation as a core component of environmental impact assessment activities under the *SDPWO Act* and the EIS ToR, including:

- information and consultation opportunities accompanying public exhibition of the draft ToR
- targeted consultation with stakeholders to support baseline assessment, impact assessment and mitigation strategy development
- consultation with affected and interested persons regarding their views on the Project and its impacts and benefits
- information and consultation opportunities during the public exhibition of the EIS
- reporting of the consultation process and outcomes.

QGC has adopted a consultation program aimed at building long-term, mutually beneficial relationships with stakeholders, avoiding consultation fatigue, and providing timely and readily accessible information.

The consultation program included pre-EIS engagement, a staged process for obtaining input to assessment and mitigation, and planning for ongoing engagement throughout the Project's construction and operation.

By the end of June 2009 more than 3,000 stakeholders had been engaged during the EIS assessment process. Key stakeholder groups included:

- residents and community groups within the Gladstone, Banana and Western Downs local government areas
- indigenous community representatives
- landholders within the gas tenement and pipeline corridor areas
- Gladstone, Western Downs, Banana and North Burnett Councils

- non-government organisations
- Queensland Government Departments and Agencies
- Commonwealth Government Departments and Agencies.

A comprehensive consultation and negotiation program with indigenous communities was conducted throughout the region. This included representatives of Traditional Owner groups and other indigenous groups in a process that integrates consultation on ethnographic connections, native title interests and cultural heritage, as well as the Project's benefits and social impacts with regards to indigenous people. This consultation is ongoing.

Landholders identified as potentially affected by the Project have been contacted to ensure they are aware of the Project and were invited to participate in consultation. Meetings have also been held with landholders where priority exploration is required to negotiate land access.

Stakeholder consultation to date has provided valuable knowledge and information about environmental, social and economic issues relevant to the areas in which QGC proposes to operate. This has allowed issues and concerns raised by stakeholders to be proactively addressed through design, mitigation and management measures.

Consultation will be ongoing throughout the construction and operation phases of the QCLNG Project, as a critical element of the business.

Ongoing engagement will be required to further develop mitigation and social benefit measures, form partnerships for implementation, and monitor the Project's environmental and social performance.

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ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

Draft Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) have been prepared for construction and operations phases of the Gas Field, Pipeline and LNG Components of the Project. These contain mitigation and management measures presented in the EIS prepared for public consultation under the process set down by the *SDPWO Act*.

CONCLUSION

Queensland Curtis LNG (QCLNG) is a world-scale Project promising economic and environmental benefits sustainable over many years.

These benefits have been measured, analysed and reported in this QCLNG EIS, comprising more than 9,000 pages of studies, benefits, impacts and mitigations.

The Project has world-class backing. It is being developed by a BG Group business, QGC – a leading Australian explorer and producer of CSG.

BG Group is a United Kingdom-listed energy business with activities on five continents, interests in 27 countries, and a successful LNG business encompassing liquefaction, shipping, regasification and marketing.

The Project will rank as one of Australia's largest capital investments and provide a considerable boost to the Queensland economy, and a significant boost to a number of regional economies.

Studies conducted for the EIS found that the Project will generate jobs for more than 4,000 people directly employed to work at the peak of construction. Permanent jobs will be generated for about 1,000 people who will be directly employed to help operate the Project.

The Project will provide a multi-billion-dollar capital injection during the primary construction phase of its core components, Gas Field, Pipeline, LNG Facility and Shipping Operations.

Almost \$30 billion in value-added activity is expected to be generated in Queensland during the first eight years of the operations phase of QCLNG from 2014.

Economic stimulus will come from LNG exports, additional expenditure by government as a result of royalties and taxes paid, wages and salaries paid to employees, demand from QCLNG for goods and services, and additional demand for goods and services as a result of flow-on industry and household expenditure.

The Project will deliver a sizeable lift in output for the Darling Downs and Fitzroy regions, particularly in the manufacturing and mining industries.

The Project will make a significant contribution to developing Queensland's large supply of CSG and establishing the LNG industry on the east coast of Australia.

Environmentally, the Project will produce one of the cleanest of all fossil fuels. Natural gas has lower carbon intensity than oil or coal and is widely regarded as a transition fuel as the world increasingly looks to renewable energy.

LNG is increasingly important as a cleaner energy source throughout the world. Global trade in LNG is projected to grow to almost 400 million tonnes a year in 2020.

QGC and BG Group are committed to the development of QCLNG, a priority project for both businesses.

Environmental and social impact assessments, including cumulative impact assessments have been undertaken for the Project. Draft management and mitigation measures have been proposed for areas where the potential for significant impacts resulting from Project activities has been identified. The implementation of management and mitigation measures, in conjunction with further assessment, monitoring, and ongoing refinement of design and construction methodology will ensure that the Project does not result in unacceptable environmental and social impacts.