



Australia Pacific LNG Project

Volume 4: LNG Facility

Chapter 1: Introduction



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1. Introduction

Australia Pacific LNG Pty Limited (Australia Pacific LNG) proposes to develop a world scale long-term coal seam gas (CSG) to liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in Queensland. The 30 year Australia Pacific LNG Project (the Project) will involve:

- Development of the Walloons gas fields in the Surat and Bowen Basins in the Queensland Western Downs region with up to 10,000 CSG wells
- Construction and operation of approximately 450km high pressured underground gas transmission pipeline to connect the Walloons gas fields with the Laird Point LNG plant
- Construction and operation of an LNG facility at Laird Point, Curtis Island near Gladstone for export of approximately 18 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of LNG.

Australia Pacific LNG is a CSG to LNG joint venture between Origin Energy Limited and ConocoPhillips Australia LNG Pty Ltd.

The environmental impact statement (EIS) is divided into six volumes as shown in Figure 1.1.

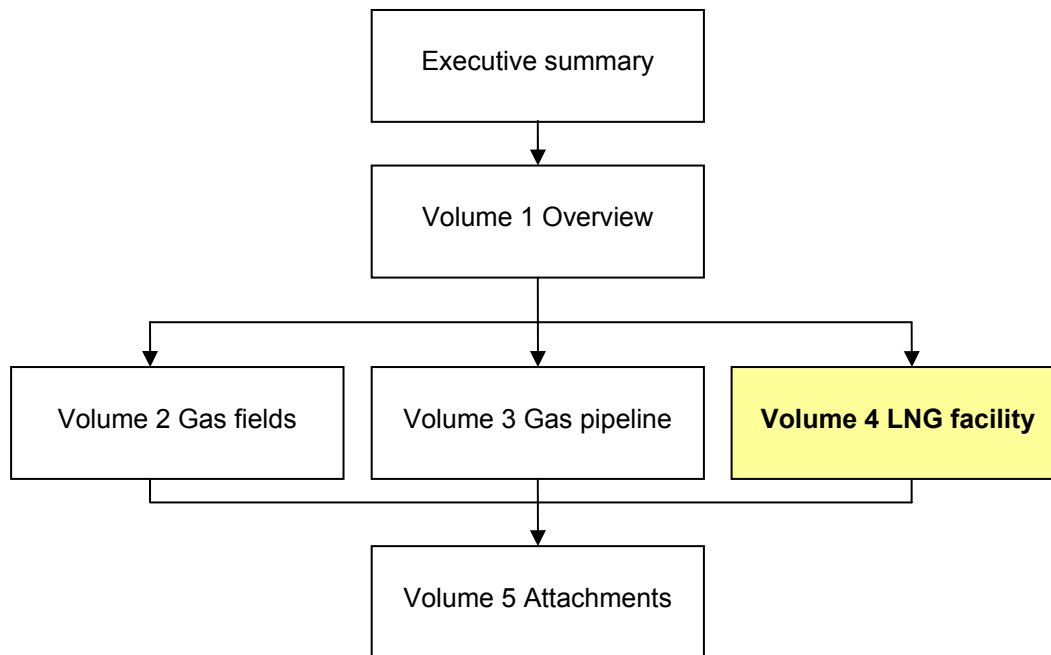


Figure 1.1 EIS structure

It should be noted that the section of the EIS that addresses the requirements of Section 1 of the terms of reference is in Volume 1 Chapter 1.

This volume, Volume 4, provides detailed impact assessment information on the LNG facility to be developed near Laird Point within the Curtis Island Industry Precinct of the Gladstone State Development Area and in the adjacent area of Port Curtis. The real property description of the terrestrial LNG facility site is Lot 3, SP225924, in the Gladstone Regional Council Local Authority area. The LNG facility incorporates the LNG plant and ancillary onshore and marine facilities. The facility is proposed to be developed in stages to a maximum ultimate capacity of approximately 18Mtpa of LNG and may comprise up to four LNG production trains, each producing up to 4.5Mtpa of LNG.

The LNG facility will utilise ConocoPhillips' proprietary Optimized Cascade[®] Process technology which is a proven and reliable technology well-suited to a CSG application. The Darwin LNG facility, which was developed by ConocoPhillips and its joint venture partners in 2006, utilises this technology and is of similar design to that being planned by Australia Pacific LNG for this development.

The establishment of the LNG facility will require the construction of wharf and jetty structures to enable the loading of the LNG vessels. A materials offloading facility which includes a ferry terminal is also required to enable the transfer of personnel, materials and heavy equipment to the project site for construction and operation. Independent infrastructure services such as power, water, telecommunications, and sewage treatment will also be established.

The Coordinator-General declared the Project to be a significant project for which an EIS is required under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (SPDWO Act) on 10 April 2009. Additionally, in view of the Project's potential to impact on matters of national environmental significance, Australia Pacific LNG referred the LNG facility to the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and the Arts. On 3 August 2009, it was determined the referral constituted a controlled action requiring approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Under the bilateral agreement, the Australian Government has accredited the Queensland SPDWO Act EIS process to meet the assessment requirements under Part 8 of the EPBC Act.

On successful completion of the EIS, a number of approvals are required under both Australian and Queensland legislation. The principal statutory approvals likely to be required for the LNG facility are:

1. Environmental authority for a number of environmentally relevant activities under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
2. Development approvals under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*, including a development approval for a material change of use for a Major Hazard Facility
3. Petroleum facility licence under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* to enable the construction and operation of the LNG plant.

The LNG facility will also be subject to the requirements under various other Queensland and Australian Acts and regulations including the *Dangerous Goods and Safety Management Act 2001*, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, EPBC Act, and *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998*.

The purpose of this volume of the EIS is to identify and assess the environmental impact of the LNG facility on the existing environment and to identify any areas of the LNG facility that will cause undue impact on the surrounding social, economic and natural environment. The purpose is also to address the terms of reference set by the Coordinator-General under Part 4 of the SPDWO Act. Subsequent to the impact assessment, recommendations for measures to mitigate, minimise or offset the potential adverse impacts have been identified. It is intended this volume of the EIS will form supporting documentation for the approvals required for the LNG facility as aforementioned.

An environmental management plan is presented in Volume 4 Chapter 24. This outlines the mitigation and management actions that will be adopted to protect the environmental and social values identified in this EIS.