

INTRODUCTION

QGC Limited (QGC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of BG Group plc, proposes to develop a world-scale, integrated liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in Queensland, known as the Queensland Curtis LNG (QCLNG) Project. The Project involves expanding QGC's existing coal seam gas operations in the Surat Basin of southern Queensland and transporting the gas via an underground pipeline to a processing plant and export facility on Curtis Island, near Gladstone, where the gas will become LNG.

QGC itself will develop a number of significant components of infrastructure for the Project. In addition, third parties, solely or in cooperation with QGC, may develop ancillary infrastructure, such as expansion of the shipping channel infrastructure in the Port of Gladstone, in support of the Project.

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) addresses the requirements of both the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments' environmental impact assessment processes. The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment has determined that an environmental assessment to address Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) is required under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* to be administered by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA). Furthermore, the Project has been declared a state significant project for which an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required under the Queensland Government's *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 (SDPWO Act)* to be administered by the Queensland Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP).

Following consultation between DIP and DEWHA, it was agreed that the environmental impact assessments under the *SDPWO Act* and *EPBC Act* be conducted in parallel, based on one set of Terms of Reference (ToR)¹ and one EIS study and report that would satisfy the requirements of both jurisdictions.

Appendix 1.1 contains a copy of the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments' ToR for this Draft EIS. A high-level summary of the ToR and a roadmap cross-referencing to where they are addressed in the relevant sections of this Draft EIS is provided in *Appendix 1.2*.

Following public and government comment on the Draft EIS, QGC will be required by DEWHA to prepare a final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) to address particular issues or comments identified in the commentary process, or to provide further detail or explanation on a particular aspect of the Project. QGC may also be required by DIP to prepare a Supplementary EIS under the *SDPWO Act* to address issues of particular State concern, raised in the Draft EIS. Should DIP require preparation of a Supplementary EIS the requirements of Queensland will – as with the Draft EIS – be combined with those of the Commonwealth into the one Final EIS document.

¹ Called 'guidelines' under the *EPBC Act*.

The remainder of this *Volume 1* of this Draft EIS provides an introduction to the Project proponent QGC, and the group of companies of which it is a member (hereafter referred to as the BG Group). *Volume 1* also outlines the process involved in preparing the Draft EIS and provides an overview of the Project and other Ancillary Infrastructure required for the Project. It also describes the stakeholder consultation and engagement program employed by QGC to inform stakeholders about the Project.