

## 3

**EIS PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY**

This chapter provides an update and identifies key issues from public submissions relating to *Volume 1, Chapter 3: EIS Process and Methodology* of the Queensland Curtis LNG (QCLNG) Project draft EIS. *Table 1.3.1* outlines the sections from *Volume 1, Chapter 3* of the draft EIS which have been updated in response to submissions received. *Table 1.3.2* outlines issues raised in submissions relating to *Volume 1, Chapter 3*.

**Table 1.3.1 Chapter Change Register**

Chapter 3 EIS	Unchanged	Updated
3. EIS Process and Methodology		✓
3.1 Objectives of the EIS	✓	
3.2 Stages in the EIS Process	✓	
3.3 Identification of Proposed Projects Considered for Cumulative Impacts		✓
3.4 Administrative Procedures for Preparation of ToR and EIS	✓	
3.5 EIS Submissions Process	✓	

**Table 1.3.2 Summary of Issues Raised in Submissions received relating to Volume 1, Chapter 3**

Issue raised	Response	Relevant Submission
EIS is confusing and difficult to understand.	The EIS was divided into volumes by Project Component. QGC prepared an Executive Summary and a number of fact sheets to assist community members to understand the complexity of the Project.	13
EIS methodology fails to provide a numeric assessment of the impacts.	The EIS assessment methodology described in <i>Volume 1, Chapter 3, Section 3.2.3 to 3.3.1</i> is commonly used worldwide for impact assessments, and is accepted as international best practice by the World Bank's International Finance Corporation and government agencies, including the Queensland Government and the Commonwealth Government.	25, 26

As described in *Volume 1, Chapter 3*, the EIS has been prepared using a systematic process that predicted and evaluated the Project's anticipated

impacts on physical/biological, social, cultural, economic and built components of the environment. The draft EIS presented management and, where appropriate, mitigation measures that QGC and other parties, where indicated, will implement to maximise benefits and to avoid or reduce adverse impacts.

### **3.1 JUSTIFICATION OF THE EIS METHODOLOGY**

The EIS assessment methodology described in *Volume 1, Chapter 3, Section 3.2.3 to 3.3.1* is used worldwide for impact assessment. It is accepted as international best practice by the:

- World Bank's International Finance Corporation
- key financial institutions
- government agencies including the Queensland Government and the Commonwealth Government of Australia.

This methodology provides clear guidance in establishing the:

- types of impact that should be considered
- environmental resources that could be affected
- likelihood of the impact occurring
- magnitude of the impact
- risk of causing environmental harm (material or serious)
- risk of causing environmental nuisance
- evaluation of the significance of identified impacts.

This process enables a comprehensive understanding of those aspects of a project that require:

- mitigation strategies for the management of an impact on the community or the environment
- regulation to monitor and report on impacts on community or the environment.

QGC has gone beyond the ToR determined by the Queensland Government to develop a robust, scientifically sound EIS assessment process, methodology and mitigation strategies to ensure that the footprint both socially and environmentally is reduced as far as practicable while the benefits of the Project are maximised for regional Queensland and the communities in which QGC operates.

#### **3.1.1 Assessment of Cumulative Impacts**

*Volume 1, Chapter 3, Section 3.1.2* of the draft EIS summarises the cumulative impacts arising from the QCLNG Project in combination with relevant existing or proposed projects, where details of such proposed

projects have been provided to QGC by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning, or have otherwise been made public.

For each Project Component and the “whole of Project”, QGC has provided an assessment of cumulative impacts in the relevant volume of the draft EIS.

### 3.1.1.1 *Assessment Process Timetable*

The key steps in the EIS process are summarised in *Table 1.3.3*. This table has been updated since the release of the draft EIS to reflect the progress of the EIS, other key dates are unchanged.

**Table 1.3.3** *Timeframes for Stages of the EIS*

Task	Date
Initial Advice Statement	3 June 2008
Co-ordinator General declares the Project a “state-significant project”	4 July 2008
Referrals submitted to DEWHA	7 August 2008
Co-ordinator General prepares draft ToR	July – November 2008
Release of draft ToR for comment	1 November 2008
Public advertisement and review of draft ToR	1 November – 12 December 2008
Final ToR	26 May 2009
Prepare EIS	March 2008 – August 2009
Public advertisement and review of EIS	31 August – 16 October 2009
Proponent prepares responses to submissions to EIS and/or supplementary EIS	September 2009 – January 2010
Co-ordinator General's assessment report	May 2010
Decision by Commonwealth (DEWHA)	May 2010
Preparation of applications for other approvals, licences and permits required by the Project	May 2010