

ISSUES OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

A revised assessment of the significance of social impacts and benefits is included as the basis of the draft Social Impact Management Plan (as detailed in *Appendix 8.4*), which details mitigation strategies and the management and monitoring system for QCLNG.

The draft SIMP will provide a process for engagement with stakeholders to develop mitigation strategies for issues of local and regional significance. The SIMP will detail mitigation and management strategies for each significant impact identified in the draft and Supplementary EIS (refer to *Appendix 8.4*).

QGC has initiated several major mitigation strategies in readiness for implementation upon project approval, and these include:

- development of a comprehensive social and environmental constraints methodology to ensure social values are respected in the gas fields
- initiation of an Indigenous employment and enterprise development program
- rural Health partnership identification in the Western Downs and Toowoomba region
- social infrastructure partnership identification in the Western Downs, with the Gladstone phase to begin shortly
- an Integrated Housing Strategy for the project as a whole
- the Local Content Strategy, in readiness for Council and business engagement
- readiness for partnerships for housing stock development in Gladstone (with Western Downs to follow)
- engagement with stakeholders regarding potential for beneficial use of coal seam water
- a Transport Infrastructure mitigation partnership with Western Downs and DTMR, (with a strategy for Gladstone to begin shortly)
- consultation with marine stakeholders in Gladstone and support for the Volunteer Marine Rescue service, with a Gladstone Marine Recreation Partnership program to be initiated in early 2010.

Processes to involve stakeholders in development of mitigation strategies are discussed in the draft EIS, this Volume and *Volume 12* of the Supplementary EIS, and include:

- engagement with Traditional Owners and Indigenous communities in the project area
- engagement with Queensland Government agencies to develop a shared understanding of mitigation responsibilities

- engagement with Gladstone Regional Council on a range of issues, and particularly housing, traffic impacts and social infrastructure
- engagement with Western Downs Regional Council for a range of issues, and particularly traffic impact mitigation, housing, social infrastructure and water
- engagement with Toowoomba Council for development of management plans for transport, education and training, and social infrastructure
- consultation with Local Governments on camp locations
- engagement with local and regional businesses to develop local procurement processes.

9.1 KEY ISSUES

As QCLNG traverses four local government areas, some 600 kilometres and two statistical subdivisions, some of its impacts and benefits are of regional significance. This concluding section outlines issues which will require ongoing engagement and co-operation for successful regional outcomes.

The following issues relating to the revised assessment are considered of high local and regional significance. Many relate to the existing social conditions in the project area, such as deteriorating road systems, inadequate elasticity in the housing supply, and gaps in social and health infrastructure. These are therefore key areas of co-operation for QGC, the Queensland Government, Councils and communities.

9.1.1 Integration of Indigenous issues

QGC is developing ILUAs and CHMPs with Traditional Owner groups. These agreements form the basis of QGC's primary partnerships with Indigenous people.

Traditional Owners and QGC agree that Indigenous issues should be integrated in all aspects of QGC's social performance, and particularly in employment participation. This will occur as follows:

- the Social Impact Management plan and its implementation strategies (e.g. Project Housing Strategy) will include consideration of Indigenous issues to ensure inequity is not exacerbated
- QGC will develop and implement a strategy involving partnerships with Indigenous communities to contribute to 'Closing the Gap' priorities for Indigenous education, employment and economic development
- social investment projects and community committees will each address QGC's commitments to working Indigenous community development
- ongoing engagement with Traditional Owner groups on social impact and benefit issues

- QGC will provide assistance for Traditional Owner groups to establish governance and capacity building initiatives to ensure benefits are sustained
- the Local Content Strategy includes Indigenous employment and business initiatives.

QGC commissioned the University of Queensland to undertake an Indigenous Skills Audit. The results of this audit, along with consultation with Indigenous communities and participation in cross-industry initiatives, are informing QGC's Indigenous Employment Plan, which will be complete before project approvals.

Successful outcomes, particularly on '*Closing the Gap*' priorities and economic development, will require co-operation with the Queensland Government.

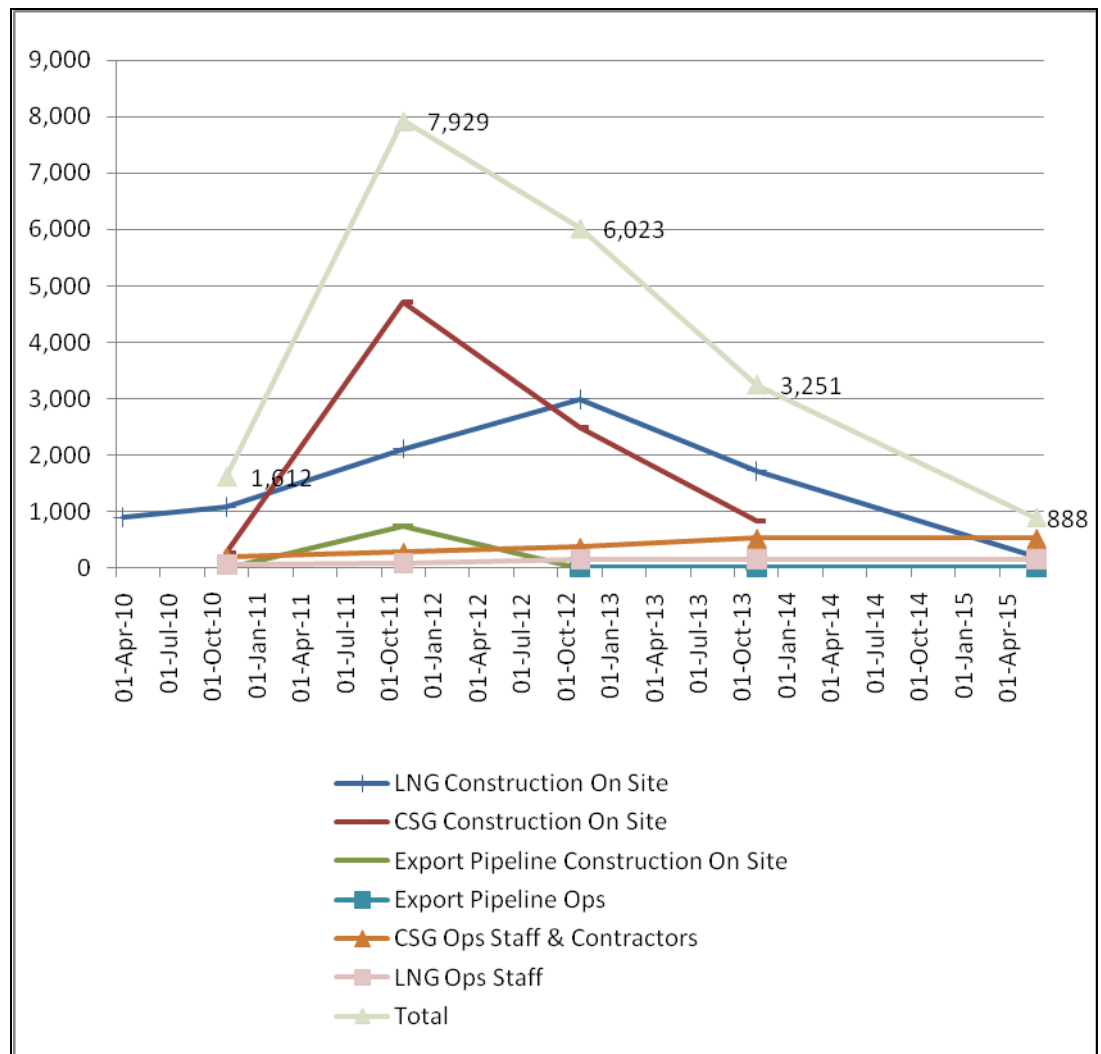
9.1.2 Workforce Size and Duration

As documented in the draft EIS, QCLNG would bring significant economic benefits to regions within the project area, and to Queensland, through direct employment, stimulation of local economies, royalties and taxes.

This updated assessment has detailed increases in the workforce planned for QCLNG, including LNG, CSG and pipeline construction. An average of more than 3,000 jobs will be provided by QCLNG over the total 60 month construction timeframe. The total LNG and CSG construction workforce on site will peak at almost 8,000 workers in late 2012.

Figure 8.9.1 illustrates the cumulative peak workforce on site for construction of QCLNG's three components. Additional off-shift workers have been considered in previous chapters.

Figure 8.9.1 Total QCLNG Total On site Workforce



This is a significant increase on the 4,400 plus workers forecast in the draft EIS estimate. This large workforce will contribute strongly to employment growth in Queensland, and the duration of employment will provide surety of employment and income for people in the construction industry and other businesses.

It also points to an outstanding need for industry and the Queensland Government to work together, to ensure all possible opportunities are made for Queensland workers. QGC is currently participating in cross-industry initiatives to this effect, and welcomes further industry-State co-operation in this regard.

Post 2014, QGC will sustain a workforce of some 2,200 people during 2016-2018, and approximately 3,000 people in 2020, including LNG operations, CSG operations and post-2015 construction peaks. This will decline to a permanent operational workforce of some 1,000 people after 2020.

As such, QGC will remain an active and interested stakeholder in the project regions over an extended period, and will welcome co-operation with the Queensland Government and Councils to maximise the benefits of local employment and plan for sustainable social conditions in project communities.

9.1.3 *Housing and Social Infrastructure Demands in Gladstone*

QGC has committed to using mainland camps during its first year of construction, and then the island camp for the term of construction. This will not mitigate all housing demand, and more than 300 dwellings are likely to be required in Gladstone at the peak of construction for the LNG facility, including operational workforce housing.

QGC is currently undertaking economic analysis and identification of options with respect to housing purchase and leasing, prior to completing and implementing an Integrated Project Housing Strategy, which will include an area-based housing strategy for Gladstone, as outlined in *Chapter 6, Section 6.2.2.4* of this Volume.

QGC is also conducting consultation with social infrastructure providers in Gladstone, and will review the Strategic Social Infrastructure Study when complete, to assist targeting of its social infrastructure initiatives. This will also be outlined in the SIMP when complete (see *Appendix 8.4*).

As noted, QGC is willing to work co-operatively with industry, council and Government stakeholders to address cumulative impacts.

9.1.4 *Uncertainty about Field Construction Impacts*

Construction sites active in the gas fields during 2010 - 2014 will include four CPPs, 20 FCSs, water treatment plants, trunk lines and the collection header, accommodation camp sites, logistics areas and ancillary construction sites.

Most sites will be located in rural areas, requiring attention to existing and adjacent land uses, and the social and economic values attaching to them. Land use and facility configurations will need to be managed to limit severance or alienation of rural land use and local movement patterns.

Consultation on the draft EIS found that people in the Gas Field area were not generally opposed to the industry; rather many were uncertain about how it would affect them, given facility and well locations are still being defined. It will be particularly important that the Project provide timely and comprehensive information about Gas Field development, and work with residents to progressively identify and address detailed impacts at site level.

There was however a higher level of concern in rural residential areas about how gas production could affect their community values. This is the subject of current consultation in the Tara area, with plans for a community consultative committee in this area, as part of QGC's forward looking community engagement plan also underway.

With respect to traffic, stakeholders understand that QCLNG's construction and logistics traffic during construction will be significant. Intended use of regional local roads is being finalised, and worst case impact assessment has been provided in the sEIS (see *Volume 3, Chapter 14*, and *Volume 4, Chapter 13*). QGC has initiated engagement with regional and local road stakeholders, in order to develop an implementation plan for local and district road mitigations. The implementation plan will be completed before construction of major facilities begins.

9.1.5 *Housing and Social Infrastructure Demands in Western Downs*

Consultation with social infrastructure providers, Western Downs Regional Council and Toowoomba Regional Council during November 2009 indicated that housing was the greatest issue for planning, with Chinchilla and Dalby of particular concern. Housing supply is under severe stress in some Gas Field towns, with rising costs and consultation indicating that major projects in the area have already impacted on low income households. Residential land and housing production in the Western Downs is unlikely to keep pace with major industry demands.

Whilst all non-local workers will be accommodated in camps, QGC intends to build local employment for the operational phase. QCLNG will make significant demands on housing in the Western Downs, in order to house its operational workforce as local employment in QCLNG operations increases.

QGC's Integrated Project Housing Strategy will include an area-based housing strategy for the Western Downs region, through engagement with Council, the housing development industry, and local community housing providers. The strategy will include options for housing investment, affordable housing support and management of QGC housing demands on the local market, and will be complete prior to Gas Field construction beginning.

Health was the second most important issues identified in consultation during and after the draft EIS display period in the gas field area. With increased demands from resource growth, strains on health infrastructure are already evident in the Western Downs region's health services.

Quality of life, health and housing are integrally linked. For example, the issue of attracting and retaining doctors and other professionals in town relates to the standard of schools, the airport, roads, and employment opportunities for partners. This is an important issue for QGC, given the need to ensure workers are willing to live in the Western Downs region.

QGC has committed in the draft EIS to mitigating its direct impacts on health services by employing doctors to meet workforce needs, and supporting the capacity of local community providers to provide health and community services in the region. A QGC partnership initiative to build rural health capacity in the region is also in early stages, with engagement commenced between QGC and health stakeholders in November 2009.

Of note, Toowoomba was reported by Toowoomba Regional Council to be a 'magnet' for settlement for industry employees, and there was concern about infrastructure lag (roads, traffic) affecting Toowoomba residents and businesses. Given the lack of surplus housing and residential land in Western Downs LGA, it is likely Toowoomba will experience some 'overflow' of families attracted to the region by QCLNG. This is more relevant to the operational phase than the construction phase. An inter-Council planning initiative is underway to responding to the cumulative impacts of Surat Basin development, and QGC will continue to work with the Councils to address regional issues.

9.1.6 *Beneficial Use of Associated Water*

Beneficial use options include irrigation, re-injection and supply to third party users, potentially including mining and energy operations, agricultural and municipal users. Municipal supply (or offsets such as provision to industrial users which would otherwise use existing limited water resources) and river discharge would have positive community benefits, and are being considered by QGC in progressing/finalising its Water Development Strategy and Water Management plans.

9.2 *CONCLUSION*

This Supplementary Volume has addressed the following:

- submissions regarding social and cultural heritage impacts
- refinements to project design, and workforce forecasts
- the results of consultation during and after the draft EIS public display period
- the results of additional studies undertaken to address issues raised by submitters
- matters of local and regional significance.

The supplementary social impact assessment has demonstrated increases in both project benefits and project impacts. Refined mitigations have been outlined in each of the relevant sections, and will be further detailed and programmed in the Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) for QCLNG. The SIMP will be developed in consultation with key stakeholders in February-April 2010 (see *Appendix 8.4* for details).