



Department of
**Environment and
Heritage Protection**

Ref CTS 31275/14

22 JAN 2015

Mr Jan Arens
President
Gladstone Conservation Council Inc
PO Box 127
Gladstone Mail Exchange
GLADSTONE QLD 4680

Dear Mr Arens

I refer to your emails of 16 and 18 December 2014 concerning flare emissions from the Queensland Curtis Liquefied Natural Gas (QCLNG) facility on Curtis Island in Gladstone. Following the announcement of a general election to be held on 31 January 2015, the Government is now in caretaker mode. As such, I have been requested to reply to you on the Minister's behalf.

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities on Curtis Island are authorised under environmental authorities (EAs) to operate gas flares as a necessary and safe means of managing gas that cannot be used in the LNG process. QCLNG's flare is specifically authorised under EA EPPG00711513, which contains conditions to ensure that the flare is operated in a manner that reduces impacts on the environment.

The EA is not inconsistent with the EIS information contained in the EIS about flaring duration and frequency because the EIS is non-specific and the estimates based on available information. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection assessed the application and conditioned the authority based on the information and assumptions provided by the proponent at that time.

I am advised that the QCLNG flare has been prominent in recent weeks due to gas that has been released through the flare while the plant is in start-up mode. The visible flame has fluctuated in intensity due to changes in the amount of gas released while different parts of the plant are commissioned. During normal operations, gas entering the plant will be liquefied for export rather than released through a flare, so the intensity of the flare is expected to be greatly reduced.

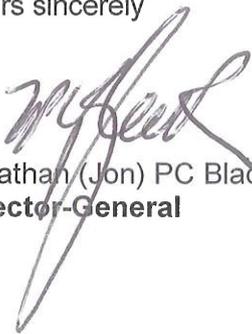
In relation to your concerns regarding the black smoke which has been emitted from the flare, I can advise that conditions of the EA require QCLNG to operate the flare in a manner which does not result in noxious or offensive airborne contaminants at a sensitive place, such as a residence. The department has not received any complaints directly from members of the public, however, out of an abundance of caution, the department has been investigating the matter and air quality monitoring in the Gladstone region has not identified any anomalies in December 2014 which could be attributed to this event.

Based on this monitoring, the department does not have specific concerns in relation to health impacts resulting from the flare emissions at this time. The department is continuing to investigate both the on-site situation and Gladstone air quality to ensure that QCLNG remains in compliance with the conditions of its environmental authority.

The department encourages anyone who may be experiencing noxious or offensive airborne contaminants at a sensitive place to contact the Pollution Hotline on telephone 1300 130 372.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr John Frankish, Manager, Environmental Services and Regulation of the department on telephone 4971 6530.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Black', written over a faint, larger signature that is mostly obscured.

Jonathan (Jon) PC Black
Director-General