



Department of  
**Environment and  
Heritage Protection**

Ref CTS 01313/15

17 FEB 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 letter dated 23 January 2015 concerning flare emissions from the Queensland Curtis Liquefied Natural Gas (QCLNG) facility on Curtis Island in Gladstone.

I appreciate the volume of material contained in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is voluminous and the effort it takes to find relevant information. However for ease of reference, *Volume 5: Environmental Impacts of Shipping Operations and Ancillary Infrastructure, Chapter 12* relates to air impacts from the LNG Facility. Please note that sections of the EIS cited in your letter relate solely to infrastructure located in the gas fields and do not relate to activities at the LNG Facility on Curtis Island. The environmental authority (EA) for the LNG facility is available on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's website at <<https://environment.ehp.qld.gov.au/env-authorities/>> and can be obtained by typing in the EA permit number EPPG00711513.

To clarify statements contained within my letter dated 22 January 2015, the EA is not inconsistent with information contained in the EIS, as specific detail pertaining to the duration and frequency of flaring during commissioning was not included in the EIS. The EIS presented scenarios representative of the anticipated worst-case emissions including non-normal operating conditions; however this did not include commissioning.

As previously advised, the department assessed the application and conditioned the EA based on the information provided by the proponent at that time. While this information did not identify potential smoke from flaring during commissioning, any environmental nuisance caused by flaring in the form of odours or offensive air borne contaminants is restricted under condition (B1) of the EA at any stage of operation. To this end, the department has requested information from QCLNG in relation to best practice standards, combustion efficiency, gas composition and complaint data to investigate this matter further and ensure that impacts to the Gladstone region are being managed. If the department determines that environmental harm is being caused (above what was originally considered as part of the application) and that the EA does not adequately address that harm, then there are various statutory tools under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to address this inconsistency.

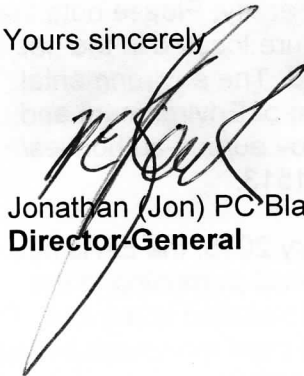
Regarding your concerns about particulate matter emissions, both the air quality objective within the *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008* and the World Health Organisation's guideline set a maximum PM<sub>10</sub> 24 hour average of 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. The Queensland Government's air monitoring confirms that PM<sub>10</sub> is well below the 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (24-hour average). Air monitoring results are published on the department's website, with information being updated hourly. The data can be accessed at <<http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/air/data/search.php>>.

To address your concerns about communication with local staff in Gladstone, I have asked the department's Manager in Gladstone (Mr Tony Baker) to contact you to arrange a meeting to work through your concerns, including answering any questions about compliance with the current EA or the available data.

I would like to reiterate that concerns about odour or air quality by members of the public are best directed towards the Pollution Hotline on telephone 1300 130 372.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Tony Baker, Manager, Environmental Services and Regulation of the department on telephone (07) 4971 6530.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan (Jon) PC Black  
**Director-General**