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21 December 2017

By email

Dear Sir or Madam

Western Australian and Northern Territory LNG Producers applications for authorisation AA1000396—Draft determination

The ACCC has issued a draft determination in respect of the above applications for authorisation lodged by Chevron Australia Pty Ltd, Inpex Operations Australia Pty Ltd, Shell Australia Pty Ltd and Woodside Energy Limited (together, the applicants) on 12 September 2017.

The Applicants seek authorisation to discuss, make and give effect to arrangements regarding the sequencing and timing of scheduled maintenance and associated shutdowns and outages at liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

The LNG facilities form part of the Gorgon, Wheatstone, Ichthys, Prelude, North West Shelf and Pluto LNG projects, each of which involves the subsea extraction of natural gas, its processing and conversion to LNG for export.

Please see the ACCC's publication [Guidelines for Authorisation of conduct \(non-merger\)](#) for a summary of the authorisation process and how to make a submission to the ACCC.

Draft determination

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination and summary of its reasons is attached.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation for five years.

Next steps

Once the ACCC issues a draft determination, the Applicant or any interested party may make a written submission and/or request that the ACCC convene a 'pre-decision conference'.

If you wish to make a submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination, please lodge your submission by close of business **19 January 2018**. Submissions should be emailed to adjudication@acc.gov.au with the subject "AA1000396 – Western Australian and Northern Territory LNG Producers - Submission".

The ACCC is particularly interested in your views on its preliminary position not to impose a condition of authorisation requiring the public disclosure of certain maintenance scheduling information.

A pre-decision conference provides the opportunity for interested parties to make oral submissions in relation to the draft determination. Conferences are conducted informally and while legal or professional advisers are able to attend they are not entitled to participate in the discussion.

If you wish the ACCC to hold a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination you must notify the ACCC in writing by close of business **19 January 2018**.

The ACCC will consider any submissions it receives, including any oral submissions made should a pre-decision conference be called, and will then release a final determination in relation to these applications.

Submissions will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion. Please see the ACCC's publication [Guidelines for excluding information from the public register](#).

Timetable

The ACCC will continue to progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An updated indicative timetable is set out below for your information.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
12 September 2017	Lodgement of applications and supporting submission.
10 October 2017	Public consultation on the application begins.
21 December 2017	Draft determination.
January/February 2018	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
February/March 2018	Final determination.

This letter will be placed on the ACCC's public register. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this matter, including if you want request a pre-decision conference, please do not hesitate to contact Simon Bell on (02) 6243 1232 or adjudication@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Darrell Channing
Director
Adjudication Branch