



Environmental Protection Act 1986

Hon. Matthew Swinbourn BA LLB MLC
Minister for the Environment; Community Services; Homelessness

MINISTER'S APPEAL DETERMINATION**APPEAL AGAINST LICENCE L9102/2017/1 – GORGON LIQUEFIED
NATURAL GAS (LNG) PROJECT, BARROW ISLAND****Purpose of this document**

This document sets out the Minister's decision on an appeal lodged under section **102(3)(b)** of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* in objection to amendments to licence L9102/2017/1. This document is produced by the Office of the Appeals Convenor for the Minister but is not the Appeals Convenor's own report, which can be downloaded from the Appeals Convenor's website at <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/office-of-the-appeals-convenor>.

Appellant:	Conservation Council of Western Australia
Licence Holder:	Chevron Australia Pty Ltd
Proposal description:	Gorgon Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Project licence L9102/2017/1 amendments
Minister's Decision:	The Minister dismissed the appeal.
Date of Decision:	10 October 2025

REASONS FOR MINISTER'S DECISION

The Minister has determined the appeal against the licence amendments for the above project.

In summary, the appeal relates to the acceptability of the conditions of the licence for well remediation activities (appeal 045/24), and the management of per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) impacted soils and waters (appeal 008/25) at the Gorgon Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Project on Barrow Island. Concerns primarily relate to the assessment and conditions for the management of well remediation activities at the permanent wastewater disposal (PWD) wells and the temporary wastewater injection plant (TWIP) and the management of PFAS contaminated soil stockpiles within the Gas Treatment Plant (GTP).

Decision

Having considered the information available, including the Department of Water and Environment Regulation's (DWER) response to the appeal, the appellant's submissions, Chevron Australia Party Limited's response to the appeals, and the Appeals Convenor's report and recommendation, the Minister has considered DWER's assessment was adequate and consistent with relevant policy guidelines and legislation and the licence conditions are appropriate.

The Minister has accepted the Appeals Convenor's recommendations and decided to dismiss the appeal.

The Minister's reasons are set out below.

Potential impacts from well remediation chemicals were adequately assessed

The appeal contested that the conditions of Ministerial Statement 800 (MS 800) did not adequately protect the environment from the down well injection of well remediation chemicals in the proposed well remediation activities.

The Minister understands that DWER had regard to the conditions of MS 800 and the policy and guidance documents that provided the regulatory framework.

The Minister also understands that DWER noted in its assessment that there was potential for regulatory duplication between Part IV and V of the EP Act and in setting regulatory controls. The Minister understands that after considering the requirements of the MS 800 conditions for the management of well remediation chemicals, DWER did not include management measures in the Terrestrial and Subterranean Environment Protection Plan (TSEPP), Solid and Liquid Waste Management Plan (SLWMP), Long-term Marine Turtle Management Plan (LTM TMP) and Terrestrial and Subterranean Environment Monitoring Program (TSEMP) on the licence to avoid regulatory duplication with MS 800.

The Minister agrees with the Appeals Convenor that DWER's assessment of well remediation chemicals was appropriate.

Potential impacts from PFAS contaminated soil and water were adequately assessed

The appeal contested that the risks to the ecology of Barrow Island and other areas of significant conservation values from PFAS contaminated soil and water were not adequately assessed. Concerns were raised that the risks to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) from PFAS contamination are largely unknown but there was an increasing body of scientific research demonstrating a range of effects on a range of wildlife.

The Minister understands that as PFAS represents a new environmental risk not previously considered, Chevron is conditioned to submit an updated TSEPP and SLWMP as required by condition 36 of MS 800. It is also my understanding that a review and update of the TSEPP (2023) should be considered to address the potential impacts of PFAS on MNES under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The Minister also understands that based on the risk assessment, DWER concluded that there was a high risk of contamination from PFAS containing soil stockpiles currently stored at Area 20B within the GTP.

The Minister agrees with the Appeals Convenor that DWER's assessment of PFAS contaminated soil and water was appropriate.

Conditions of the licence are appropriate**Well remediation**

The appeal contested the licence conditions for well remediation activities failed to address the risks of a containment breach, fracturing, fracturing of the receiving formation or mechanical integrity failure of the wastewater disposal wells.

The Minister understands that the proposed controls for well remediation are captured in the management plans required under MS 800, therefore DWER determined no additional controls needed to be conditioned in licence L9102/2017/1.

The Minister understands that the conditions of licence L9102/2017/1 include continuous monitoring of volumetric flow rate, wellhead pressure, annulus pressure, flowline pressure and temperature at the PWDs to detect changes in operational performance that could indicate issues with well integrity.

The Minister also understands that DWER determined not to amend licence L9102/2017/1 to include Chevron's proposed change to the monitoring frequency of wellhead and A Annulus pressure monitoring of the TWIP wells because it would reduce the monitoring frequency and allow for periods of no monitoring.

Management of PFAS contamination

The Minister understands that given the high-risk rating and prolonged presence of the stockpile at the GTP, DWER deemed it critical to set specified action conditions in licence L9102/2017/1 that the licence holder must complete by a designated date.

The Minister understands that these licence conditions do not alter the current risk level of the activity but are aimed at reducing or managing the ongoing risks associated with the stockpile and guiding the licence holder in identifying practical risk reduction controls in accordance with the PFAS National Environmental Management Plan Version 3.0 (NEMP).

The Minister also understands that the risk reduction controls identified through the implementation of the specified action conditions in licence L9102/2017/1, along with any others DWER deems necessary, will be conditioned within the licence at a later date to lower the risk to receptors.

The Minister agrees with the Appeals Convenor that the conditions of the licence are appropriate.

Other matters were considered

The appeal raised concern about the use of PFAS containing firefighting foams at the licence premises.

The Minister understands that Chevron completed the replacement of PFAS-based firefighting foam (Alcoseal 3%) at the L9102/2017/1 premises with PFAS-free foam (Respondol) in 2023.

Note: this decision is published pursuant to the terms of section 110 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and regulation 8 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987*.

Office of the Appeals Convenor

Level 18 The Mill Green Complex 197 St Georges Terrace

Perth WA 6000

Tel: (08) 6364 7990

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