



**The Hon Tony Burke MP**

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**Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities**

B12/2276

21 DEC 2012

Mr Derek Fisher  
Managing Director  
QGC Pty Limited  
GPO Box 3107  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr Fisher

As you would be aware, I approved the Queensland Curtis LNG project under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) on 22 October 2010. The approval conditions relating to gas field development (EPBC 2008/4398) require QGC to submit detailed water management and monitoring plans.

I am advised that on 23 April 2012 QGC submitted a 'Stage 2 Water Monitoring and Management Plan' to satisfy conditions 49 and 52 attached to the approval. This plan has been reviewed by the Expert Panel for Major Coal Seam Gas Projects. During the review the panel considered technical advice from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (the department), Geoscience Australia and the University of New South Wales Water Research Laboratory.

The panel has advised me that some conditions have not been adequately addressed in the Stage 2 plan. I understand that QGC has committed to addressing those matters with amendments to the plan in 2013 and early 2014. The panel has further advised that the outstanding requirements could be addressed in a future plan submission, without significant risk to matters of national environmental significance, provided that plan was approved and implemented prior to substantial dewatering of the Walloon Coal Measures.

To allow for the submission of a future plan and upon recommendation from the department, and considering the advice of the panel, I have decided to vary the water monitoring and management plan conditions of approval. The variation will move the currently outstanding conditions to a 'Stage 3 Water Monitoring and Management Plan' and will include a requirement for the Stage 3 plan to be submitted by 22 July 2013 and implemented no later than 22 December 2013. A copy of the signed variation notice is enclosed with this letter.

After careful consideration of advice from the panel and the department I have decided to approve the QGC Stage 2 plan as meeting the amended requirements of the Stage 2 plan approval conditions. Consistent with condition 53 the approved Stage 2 plan must be implemented.

Should you require any further information on these matters, please contact Mr Shane Gaddes, A/g Assistant Secretary, Compliance and Enforcement Branch, on 02 6274 2760, or by email: [shane.gaddes@environment.gov.au](mailto:shane.gaddes@environment.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Burke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tony" and the last name "Burke" clearly legible.

Tony Burke

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