

Section 2

Objectives and Benefits



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2 Objectives and Benefits

A number of objectives and benefits underlie the development of the Blacktip Project. These objectives and benefits are presented in this section for consideration in conjunction with the broader environmental issues associated with the proposed development. One of the prime objectives of the Draft EIS is to demonstrate that the objectives and benefits of the proposed development are tangible and can be achieved whilst maintaining high environmental standards that are acceptable to all major stakeholders.

In 2004, a study was conducted by ACIL Tasman on behalf of Woodside to assess the economic impacts of the Blacktip Project on the local, Northern Territory and Australian economies. The study used the Monash Multi Regional Forecasting (MMRF) model to estimate the economic impact of the project on Northern Territory and Australian economies relative to a 'base case' or business as usual scenario (ie no development). The following section summarises the key findings from this study.

2.1 Project Objectives

2.1.1 Introduction

The Blacktip Project has two main objectives. The primary objective is the extraction and processing of gas to supply the Alcan alumina refinery at Gove in the Northern Territory. This supply will be achieved via the TTP, an onshore pipeline linking the Blacktip processing facilities to the Alcan refinery. Under the Heads of Agreement entered into between the Blacktip Joint Venture and Alcan, gas will be supplied to the Gove refinery from the Blacktip gas field via the TTP. It is expected that supply will begin in 4th Quarter, 2007 and continue for an initial 20 year period.

The secondary objective of the Blacktip Project is to supply gas to additional customers in the Northern Territory. At the time of preparation of this Draft EIS specific additional customers had not been secured. However, allowances have been made in the design of onshore and offshore infrastructure to meet increased capacity requirements should additional demands arise.

2.1.2 Project Justification

The high-energy intensity of alumina production requires access to a competitively priced and secure energy source. At present, alumina production at Gove is powered using imported fuel oil. Fuel is the most significant input cost, accounting for 30% of total operating costs. A shift to a natural gas source would not only substantially improve project competitiveness over the long term, but would also enhance the economic contribution of the Alcan Gove operations to the Northern Territory and the Australian economies. Use of gas would also deliver worthwhile local environmental benefits and improve the greenhouse gas emissions efficiency of the operations.

2.1.3 Meeting Market Demand

The current Blacktip reserves are sufficient to provide gas to satisfy the needs of the Alcan Gove Expansion under the current 'Heads of Agreement'. Additionally, other gas fields in the Bonaparte Basin could be developed to supply existing and developing Territory markets in the future. The Blacktip Project is likely to provide a strong stimulus for further exploration in the region.

Northern Australian Gas Supply: The Bonaparte Basin is the most northerly sedimentary basin in Western Australia and straddles the Western Australian–Northern Territory borders, and extends northward to the Timor Trough. Most of the basin is located offshore, covering 250,000 km², compared to just over 20,000 km² onshore.

Petroleum exploration in the Bonaparte Basin commenced in the late 1940s, with reconnaissance work conducted in the onshore area. In 1964, the first well in the Western Australian area, Bonaparte 1, was drilled by Alliance Oil Development NL. Exploration activities since then have been successful with the discoveries of seven gas fields in the vicinity including Blacktip, Tern, Petrel, Penguin, Waggon Creek, Vienta, and Bonaparte. The Basin also contains the Turtle, Buffalo and Laminaria East oil fields as well as the Bayu-Undan and Greater Sunrise gas and condensate fields. Several extensive residual oil columns (Avocet, Barita, Drake and Lacrosse) have also been identified and it is anticipated that further discoveries will be made in the future.

To date, production development offshore in the Timor Sea has relied on stand-alone systems, such as those established since the 1980s at the Challis, Cassini, Jabiru, Laminaria, Laminaria East, Corallina, Buffalo, and Elang-Kakatua oilfields. Blacktip will become the second commercial gas field to be developed in the Bonaparte Basin, following the Bayu-Undan gas and condensate development. Blacktip's proximity to a number of other prospects as well as the Petrel and Tern discoveries may offer further potential to increase production from this area.

Current Gas Use in the Northern Territory: Natural gas use has increased steadily in the Northern Territory since 1984. Projects such as Xstrata's McArthur River zinc-lead-silver mine, located 900 km south-east of Darwin, which uses the Power and Water Corporation owned 330 km pipeline from Daly Waters to transport gas to its on-site power station, ensure a positive outlook for gas in the Territory.

Electricity generation in Alice Springs, Darwin and towns along the Stuart Highway is almost entirely dependant on gas from the Mereenie and Palm Valley fields to the south of Alice Springs. These fields are expected to reach the end of gas reserves around 2009/2010. It is therefore imperative to bring new fields into production before 2009 to supply electricity generation plants in the Northern Territory.

The 248 MW Channel Island Power Station near Darwin, which is owned by Power and Water Corporation, provides a sizeable base load for new gas supply.

Potential For Future Gas Demand: The existence of gas supply infrastructure, backed by new reserves that could be brought into production, may stimulate new gas customers. Currently, most mining and industrial operations must utilise expensive liquid fuels for power generation. While limited in number, new customers could include mining and mineral processing operations, possible gas processing and agricultural processing.

Northern Territory Gas Grid: The gas processing infrastructure proposed for the Blacktip Project has the potential to stimulate development of a Northern Territory gas grid. This would comprise the simple grid formed by the TTP and the Amadeus Pipeline, as well as lateral pipelines to customer sites.

2.1.4 Environment, Health and Safety Policy Objectives

As operator of the Blacktip Project, the policies and standards of Woodside will be applied to the design and operation of the facilities.

Woodside shares the desire of the community to develop natural resources in a manner that protects people and the environment. All activities will be planned and performed so that adverse effects on the environment are either avoided or kept to ALARP while meeting all statutory requirements.

Woodside has a corporate Health and Safety Policy, and an Environmental Policy that provides a public statement of the corporate commitment to protecting the environment and people. These policies are contained in **Appendix D, Volume 1** of this EIS.

In 2003, the Woodside Environmental Standards and Aspirations (WESA) document (Woodside 2003c) was launched, which defines Woodside's minimum acceptable standards and visionary aspirations for improvement on key environmental issues. Woodside's goal is to position above the minimum standards and apply the ALARP principle to its decision making to ensure an appropriately balanced outcome. Technology and operational improvements and changes in community expectations will continue to drive the ALARP principle progressively forward over time and assist in driving continuous improvement in Woodside's environmental performance.

Business units within Woodside are required to conduct an annual internal gap analysis, which compares environmental practice against the environmental standards. Subsequent environmental improvement plans are developed to bridge any identified gaps. Key performance indicators now include compliance to WESA standards.

2.1.5 National Greenhouse Strategy

Woodside is committed to contributing to Australia's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by appropriately investing in efficient technology and identifying opportunities for continuous improvement. Woodside entered into a Greenhouse Challenge Cooperative Agreement with the Commonwealth Government in 1997. The aim of the Woodside Greenhouse Strategy is to identify cost-effective technological and external opportunities to abate greenhouse emissions. The Cooperative Agreement presently covers all operations and activities operated by Woodside. Since joining the Program in 1997, Woodside has achieved significant reductions in greenhouse

emissions through commitment to their environmental policy, such as by producing energy in an efficient manner and applying best economically available technology in design to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

As operator of the Blacktip Project, Woodside is committed to maintaining participation in the Greenhouse Challenge Program.

2.2 Project Benefits

2.2.1 Economic Benefits

The project will bring a range of economic benefits to the local area, the Northern Territory and Australia. These benefits include:

- the creation of training, employment and business opportunities;
- increased revenue to Territory and Commonwealth Governments;
- increased export revenue through enhancing the economics of the expanded Alcan alumina refinery;
- flow-on economic activity (for example services and social infrastructure).

The impacts will be significant during both the construction period of the project and its operation phase.

The location of the project in one of the more remote and least economically developed areas of the Northern Territory will bring opportunities for Indigenous communities and other people through:

- employment and economic development opportunities;
- the provision of social and economic infrastructure.

From a strategic point of view, the project will bring economic benefits through:

- the use of domestically sourced and processed gas from the Bonaparte Basin;
- a stimulus to gas exploration activity to identify additional gas reserves for development;
- the potential for additional gas reserves to be tied into the Blacktip Project and infrastructure, and supplied to customers through the TTP and other pipelines;
- the potential for further economic development in the minerals and other sectors;
- enhancing the position of the Northern Territory and Australia as destinations for major project development.

2.2.2 Benefits to the Labour Market

The Blacktip Project will lead to a long-term but modest increase in direct employment with short-term employment likely to peak in 2007. The workforce is likely to be sourced from the Northern Territory and also interstate. Competitive Northern Territory based contractors and suppliers are likely to provide substantial direct local employment opportunities for construction and supply

services provided they meet Woodside's technical and HSE requirements. The project will also require interstate personnel for the following reasons:

- The Northern Territory does not have a sufficiently large workforce to fill the positions, particularly in light of parallel construction projects.
- A number of the specialist skills required are not generally available in the Northern Territory.

The construction of the Alice Springs to Darwin Railway demonstrated how targeted training programmes and job design can result in employment of people from regional areas, including Indigenous people. The training and experience provided by the railway project has resulted in the development of a workforce pool located in Katherine and Darwin with skills that are transferable to the Blacktip Project.

2.2.3 Benefits to Northern Territory and Australia

The capital cost of the Blacktip Project during the peak construction period of 2006 to 2007 is expected to be approximately \$450 million. Expenditure over the predicted life of the project (30 years) could be as much as \$755 million. The project will deliver a wide range of economic benefits to the local, regional and national economies.

During the peak construction phase from 2006 to 2007, the project will add an average of \$12 million a year to the Northern Territory's Gross State product (GSP). Since the construction draws on inputs from other States, the impact on the Australian economy as a whole is somewhat greater, at an average of \$14 million a year. During operation, it is expected that the project will contribute an average of \$62 million per year to the real GSP of the Northern Territory. Australia as a whole could expect an average increase of \$58 million per year to real GDP over the 30 year life of the project.

The Blacktip Project is expected to make a major contribution to government revenues, particularly Commonwealth revenues. The major sources of revenue to the Commonwealth Government will be from the petroleum resource rent tax (PRRT). The net present value of Commonwealth and Territory Government revenues from the Blacktip Project is estimated to be around \$268 million over approximately 30 years.

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Section 3

Stakeholder Engagement



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3 Stakeholder Engagement

3.1 Approach to Consultation

Community participation, through consultation, is an important aspect in the environmental and social management of the Blacktip Project. The following section provides a description of the stakeholder engagement programme, which has been developed for the Blacktip Project. It specifically:

- outlines the approach and methodology undertaken for community or stakeholder consultation;
- identifies the key project stakeholders in the local, regional, national and international communities with an interest in the project;
- documents the history of stakeholder consultation and key issues raised;
- outlines the ongoing and future planned consultation.

The stakeholder engagement programme involved consultation with a range of stakeholders including both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous organisations comprising the following main groups:

- members of the public;
- NGOs;
- Territory, State and Commonwealth Government Departments;
- traditional Aboriginal owners, the NLC and local Community Government Councils.

With the exception of communities on Aboriginal land, all community consultation has been undertaken by Woodside. On Aboriginal land, community consultation was controlled by the NLC. This has restricted the ability of Woodside to freely manage community consultation in these areas in accordance with the Woodside consultation methodology. Woodside recognises the benefit of developing and implementing a consultation programme as follows:

- in providing the public and interested stakeholder groups with an opportunity to be informed about the Blacktip Project at the earliest opportunity;
- to enable the consultees to provide their opinion(s) with regards to the project;
- to ultimately be included in the decision-making process.

The stakeholder engagement programme also enables a 'two-way' flow of communication and dialogue between Woodside and the community to assist in the identification of significant environmental and social issues. Woodside views community participation in the EIA process as fundamental and more than a statutory requirement.

Woodside's consultation methodology is designed to ensure an open and comprehensive exchange of information and views, to ensure people are kept informed of project developments and decisions, and to enable them to contribute ideas that may improve the environmental, social and

political acceptance of the project. This is achieved by adhering to Woodside's principles for public engagement:

- 'People have the right to be informed about our activities and development plans and have the right to have a say about them.
- People are entitled to know about, and contribute to, decisions which affect the environment, their lives and the communities in which they live. We believe we get better decisions and better outcomes if we involve people in the process.
- Everybody has a legitimate view.
- When planning our projects, we are committed to involving people early, often and well, and to providing timely and accurate information.
- We believe that an ideal outcome is achieved only through negotiation and compromise'.

The focus of the stakeholder engagement programme undertaken for the Blacktip Project has been to identify areas of concern and interest in the project by encouraging community groups to comment on the proposed development. The community consultation for Blacktip has the following key objectives:

- Identify relevant stakeholder groups for participation in the EIS process.
- Provide the community with information on the project.
- Identify main areas of environmental concern held by the community groups so that these concerns can be addressed in the statutory environmental approvals documentation being prepared for the project.
- Actively encourage community groups to comment on the proposed project during the statutory public review period of the Draft EIS.
- Provide the proponent with the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to achieving a high level of environmental performance as part of the preventative and management measures prepared and implemented for the project.

3.2 Key Stakeholder Groups

Consultation was initiated in 1999 through the identification of key stakeholders with an interest in the Blacktip Project. Significant efforts were made by Woodside at this time to ensure that all stakeholders were identified at the earliest opportunity. A comprehensive stakeholder consultation list was developed and a summary of the key stakeholders is included in **Section 3.2.1** and **3.2.2**. Should additional stakeholder groups be identified in the future, their comments will be captured during the statutory public review period of the Draft EIS. Their participation in this review period is actively encouraged by Woodside.

It is important to note that the frequency of consultation undertaken with stakeholders groups to date has varied, depending on the stage of the project and the level of interest generated by the project. During the conduction of the EIA process, consultation has principally focused on the identification of significant environmental and social issues to be addressed in this report.

3.2.1 Indigenous Communities

Consultation with Indigenous Communities is a regulatory requirement under the Commonwealth *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* and the Northern Territory *Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*. The majority of consultation activities undertaken by the proponent since the discovery of the Blacktip gas field have been via the NLC.

The Indigenous communities in the project area were initially consulted in 1999 as part of the environmental approvals process for proposed exploration (seismic survey) activities within permit WA-279-P. This consultation was held with the NLC and included an initial briefing on the exploration activities.

Following the discovery of the Blacktip Gas Fields in September 2001, further consultation was undertaken with the NLC in November 2001 relating to the initial coastal area, plant site and pipeline route surveys. Subsequent consultation and field activities have been undertaken with the traditional Aboriginal owners. This process has been facilitated through the ongoing support of the NLC. A comprehensive list of consultation undertaken with the Indigenous communities in the project vicinity is provided in **Table 3-1**.

Indigenous groups and their representatives consulted with at Wadeye comprise:

- Yak Maning traditional Aboriginal owners;
- Yak Dimininh traditional Aboriginal owners;
- Thamarrurr Regional Council;
- Thamarrurr Rangers;
- Commonwealth Government and Northern Territory Government representatives involved in the Wadeye Indigenous Communities Coordination Pilot (ICCP) project;
- Local Wadeye business enterprise organisations.

The local Community Government Councils, Kardu Numida (at Wadeye) and Nganmarriyanga (at Palumpa) have also been briefed about the Project on several occasions.

Consultation with traditional Aboriginal owners and their local representative organisations will continue to be a priority throughout the construction and operation of the project development.

■ **Table 3-1 Summary of Consultation**

Date	Location of Contact (if applicable)	Attendees	Communication Tools Used
February 1999			Letter to NLC regarding exploration activities.
March 1999	Darwin	NLC Regional Office.	Meeting and written presentation materials.
May 2000			Letter to NLC advising of forthcoming 3D seismic activities.
October 2001	Darwin	NLC Head Office.	Meeting and letter.
21 November 2001	Wadeye	NLC and traditional owners.	On site discussions and participation in field activities.
16 January 2002		NLC.	Meeting and letter.
19 & 26 February 2002	Wadeye	NLC and traditional owners.	Consultation and meeting followed by participation in field activities.
28 March 2002	Wadeye and Palumpa	NLC, Kardu Numida and Ngaanmarriyanga Community Government Councils.	Letter.
12 April 2002		NLC.	Letter.
17 April 2002	Crab Claw Island	Darwin / Daly / Wagait Regional Council.	Presentation at Regional Meeting at Crab Claw Island.
13–26 May 2002	Wadeye and Palumpa	NLC, traditional owners and Kardu Numida and Ngaanmarriyanga Community Government Councils.	Consultation and meeting followed by participation in field activities.
July 2002	Darwin	NLC.	Communications regarding anthropological research.
August 2002		NLC.	Anthropological research undertaken with traditional owners.
October 2002	Darwin	NLC.	Meetings with NLC on Project, survey and consultation planning.
November 2002		NLC.	Meetings with NLC on Project, survey and consultation planning.
December 2002	Darwin	NLC, traditional owners at Palumpa.	Meetings and consultations regarding pipeline routes.
19 June 2003	Wadeye	WEL, NLC and Thamarrurr Council.	Project Description Powerpoint Presentation, Q&A session.
1 July 2003	Wadeye	WEL, NLC and Thamarrurr Council.	Project Description Powerpoint Presentation, Q&A session.
July 2003 to April 2004	Darwin and Wadeye	During this period a number of meetings were held with both the NLC, the traditional Aboriginal owners (the Yak Maning and Yak Dimininh clans) and the Thamarrurr Regional Council. These were for the purpose of providing project information and seeking approval to carry out wet and dry season environmental surveys, engineering surveys and social impact consultations.	The communications methods used included face to face group meetings, negotiations, printed graphic and electronic presentations and video presentations about Blacktip and TTP in both English and Kriol (a language of exchange in the region). Also, during the period April – May 2004 a Blacktip Project video was produced, in both Murin Patha and English (the local language of exchange), in conjunction with the community which will be used in upcoming consultations.

Date	Location of Contact (if applicable)	Attendees	Communication Tools Used
14 April 2004	Wadeye	WEL, NLC, Yak Maning and Yak Diminh Traditional Owners.	Project Description Powerpoint Presentation, Q&A session.
21 April 2004	Wadeye	WEL, NLC, Thamarrurr Council and representatives from Families and Children's Services (FaCs) involved in the Indigenous Community Coordination Pilot Project (ICCP).	Powerpoint Presentation on potential employment and training and business development, Q&A session.
10–14 May 2004	Wadeye	SIA Consultants, NLC, traditional owners and other community members.	Consultations for the purposes of compiling the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Report.
31 May 2004	Wadeye	WEL and Thamarrurr Rangers.	As part of the environmental surveys undertaken offshore and onshore at Wadeye. These groups were briefed on the survey activities and participated in the onshore surveys.
22 June 2004	Darwin	WEL, NLC, representatives from Thamarrurr Council and Thamarrurr Rangers.	Project presentation co-ordinated by the Northern Territory Industry Capability Network (NTICN). Follow-up meeting between WEL and Thamarrurr Council and Rangers.
22 July 2004	Darwin	WEL, NLC, Thamarrurr Rangers.	Environmental HAZID Workshop.
22 September 2004	Darwin	NLC, Thamurrur Ranger, Yak Manning, traditional owners.	Site visits and consultation to identify environmental cultural values.

3.2.2 Non Government Organisations

The NGOs consulted with directly on the Blacktip Project comprise:

- Amateur Fishermen's Association Northern Territory (AFANT);
- Northern Territory Seafood Council;
- Conservation Volunteers Australia;
- Environment Centre Northern Territory;
- Australian Marine Conservation Society;
- Northern Territory Green Party;
- Environmental Defenders Office;
- World Wide Fund for Nature;
- Timor Sea Support Group;
- Greening Australia.

This list of NGOs is regularly reviewed and where necessary revised to ensure that all NGOs with an interest in the Draft EIS are given the opportunity to participate in consultations.

3.2.3 Government Agencies

Northern Territory and Commonwealth Government departments consulted with during the EIA process and on broader project issues include:

- Northern Territory Government Department of Justice;
- Northern Territory Government Department Treasury;
- Northern Territory Government Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment;
- Northern Territory Government Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development;
- Northern Territory Government Department of Employment Education and Training;
- Northern Territory Government Chief Minister's Office - Offices of Indigenous Policy and Territory Development;
- Northern Territory WorkSafe;
- Office of Territory Development;
- Commonwealth Government Department of Environment and Heritage;
- Northern Territory Government and Commonwealth Government Department of Defence;
- Commonwealth Department of Industry, Trade and Resources;
- Australian Fisheries Management Authority;
- Commonwealth Government Department of Transport and Regional Services.

3.3 Communication Contacts & Tools

A number of consultation methods have been adopted. The approach selected was based in each case on the interests and geographical location of the group. Various tools used in the approaches to consultation are discussed below.

3.3.1 Indigenous

As described in **Section 3.2.1**, the NLC has facilitated the majority of Indigenous consultation to date as required by section 19 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976*. Consultations with Indigenous people have been conducted through site visits to Wadeye allowing issues relating to the project to be raised and discussed. The proponent will seek to establish direct relationships with the traditional Aboriginal owners so as to facilitate ongoing consultation in accordance with Woodside's consultation methodology.

Further consultation will be undertaken before, during and after the statutory environmental approval process to ensure the traditional Aboriginal owners and the local community is aware of and involved in the development of Environmental Management Plans (EMPs).

Communication of project information, where reasonably possible, will be presented in both English and Murin Patha, the main local Indigenous language.

The NLC and Thamarrurr Council have also represented Indigenous groups at an Environmental HAZID Workshop organised by the proponent and run in Darwin in July 2004. This HAZID Workshop was focussed on identifying the main environmental concerns held by stakeholder groups.

3.3.2 Non-Indigenous Groups

The main tools used for consultation with Non-Indigenous groups comprise:

- meetings
- briefing and updates
- workshops
- project website

Meetings: Meetings with government departments, including the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth, have been undertaken on a regular basis since the decision was made to pursue development opportunities for Blacktip. These meetings have addressed a wide range of commercial, technical, planning and environmental issues pertaining to the Blacktip Project. As the lead agency in the EIA process, the Northern Territory Department of Industry, Planning, and Environment, has been regularly consulted with regarding preparation of the Draft EIS.

Broader consultation with Northern Territory Government Departments has been undertaken through the Government Task Force established to facilitate large infrastructure projects, including Blacktip, the Trans Territory Pipeline Project and the Gove Expansion Project. The Task Force facilitates all major projects and delivery of a 'Whole-of-Government' package of services to these projects. Relevant agencies continue to deliver these services. The key role of the Task Force is to identify issues affecting the project and to provide an appropriate mechanism to deal with these issues. It is also the principal point of contact with government for the project. The task force meets on a monthly basis in Darwin.

The Task Force draws their membership from senior officers in relevant Agencies; the Office of Territory Development is the lead agency. The Task Force for the Blacktip Project comprises:

- Department of Justice;
- Northern Territory Treasury Corporation (NTTCorp);
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment;
- Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development;
- Department of Employment Education and Training;
- Northern Territory Chief Minister's Office - Office of Indigenous Policy and Office of Territory Development.

Briefing and Updates: As key project milestones are reached project briefings and updates are used to convey necessary information to non Indigenous stakeholders. Briefings and updates are also provided on request to government departments and NGOs.

Workshops: Workshops are effective tools to address specific issues with stakeholder groups. The Blacktip Project has undertaken two Environmental HAZID workshops to support the EIA process. These workshops focussed on identifying the main environmental concerns held by stakeholder groups that need to be addressed in the Draft EIS.

As mentioned in **Section 3.3.1**, in July 2004 the first of two Environmental HAZID Workshops were organised and facilitated by Woodside and held in Darwin, Northern Territory. The following groups attended the workshop:

- Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage;
- Northern Territory Department of Industry, Planning and Environment;
- Northern Territory Department of Business, Industry, Resources and Development;
- Northern Land Council;
- Thamarrurr Council.

The concerns raised at this HAZID are addressed throughout the EIS and summarised in **Tables 11-4** and **12-2** of this Draft EIS.

In August 2004, a second workshop was undertaken by Woodside. Participants included environmental groups with an interest in the EIA process. Representatives in attendance included:

- Amateur Fishermen's Association Northern Territory (AFANT);
- Conservation Volunteers Australia;
- Environment Centre Northern Territory;
- Australian Marine Conservation Society;
- Northern Territory Green Party;
- Environmental Defenders Office;
- World Wide Fund for Nature;
- Timor Sea Support Group;
- Greening Australia.

The main issues raised by NGO stakeholders at this HAZID workshop are presented in **Table 3-2** and addressed in detail the relevant sections of the Draft EIS.

■ **Table 3-2 Summary of Issues/Concerns Raised by NGO Groups at the HAZID Workshop in August 2004**

Issue/Concern Raised
Offshore
What storm conditions are we referring to with 100-year storm? Is it modelled on predictions or current conditions? Are these storm conditions same as a cyclone season?
There was some concern over the condensate mooring, specifically in regards to a spill.
What contingency plans do we have in place for the condensate if it cannot be loaded, ie. Cyclone?
Onshore
The 800 m ² footprint for plant includes a safety buffer zone, what distance exactly is the safety buffer zone?
Concern was raised about the visibility of the flare.
With the treated water, can this be used in the community, ie. Indigenous orchards?
What does treated water mean, and what temperature is it discharged at?
The Acid Sulfate soils around this area, what about pollution from these soils?
The potential for noise pollution was raised.
What surveys have been done (flora and fauna)?
Pipeline
Concerns around the weed management on pipeline route
Access tracks - how many and where?
How do we stop the cleared pipeline corridor becoming a unofficial highway access route?
General
What happens with this infrastructure after the 30 year field life?
The need for strategic environment assessment and social impact assessment for all three projects (Blacktip, TTP, Gove Expansion) was raised.

Website: In August 2004, the Blacktip Project website was finalised and made available to the public. This website provides up to date information on all aspect of the project and details of key project milestones. Once completed, copies of the Draft EIS will be available on the Website for members of the public to access during the formal public review period. The website URL is: www.blacktip.woodside.com.au.

3.4 Environmental Issues Raised During Consultation

3.4.1 Indigenous Concerns

During the course of project presentations undertaken by the proponent at Wadeye in April 2004 and the consultations undertaken as part of the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) process at Wadeye in May 2004, a number of environmental concerns and issues were raised. These are presented in **Table 3-3**.

3.4.2 Non-Indigenous

At the Environmental HAZID Workshop in August 2004 NGO groups raised a number of issues and concerns. All the issues and concerns raised are addressed in detail in the appropriate sections

of the Draft EIS. The concerns and issues raised by the NGO Groups at the HAZID Workshop are summarised in **Table 3-2**.

A questionnaire was also circulated during the August 2004 workshop inviting participants to indicate their main environmental concerns and issues pertaining to the project.

■ **Table 3-3 Summary of Issues/Concerns Raised by Aboriginal Groups during SIA Consultation in April/May 2004**

Concern/Issue raised
How much produced water will be pumped back into the ocean and what will be the potential impact on fishing?
Where would chemicals cleaned from the produced formation water be disposed of (i.e. locally or transported out by barge)?
How often would a barge come in to deliver supplies such as silica and corrosion inhibitor?
What are the potential impacts of the proposed development on turtle breeding grounds?
What are the elements of the emissions from the flare?
What types of pollution will occur caused by condensate spilling into the sea while it is being pumped to tankers?
What pollution will be caused by ballast water being emptied into the ocean and polluting local waters?
The impacts of the company not taking responsibility for gas, condensate and pollution leaking into the sea.
The effect of Category 4 and 5 cyclones on the gas processing plant and the wellhead platform in the ocean.
The Company not having procedures in place to ensure the gas processing plant is safe at all times, particularly during cyclones and that explosions do not occur.
The effects of traditional burning in the vicinity of the proposed plant.
Construction, operational and maintenance workers using firearms.

3.5 Ongoing Consultation Activities

Woodside will continue to undertake and develop an ongoing communication strategy during consultation with key stakeholder groups throughout the construction and operational project phases. In developing such a strategy, consideration will be given to culturally appropriate and acceptable methods of communication with Indigenous and Non-Indigenous stakeholders.

Ongoing consultation activities with traditional Aboriginal owners and other affected Aboriginal communities will be scheduled in consultation with the local Community Government Council and where required, with the NLC. The consultation and communications strategy will have built in arrangements (language and environmental settings) for allowing traditional Aboriginal owners and any native title groups to participate constructively in discussions. Specific elements of this consultation with the Indigenous community will include further consultation on:

- the key findings presented in the Draft EIS during the formal public review period;
- the proposed construction and operations environmental management measures identified and presented in the Draft EIS;
- identifying specific ecological values that Aboriginal groups may have towards the natural environment at the project location;

- the identification and implementation of environmental management measures and management measures developed through the SIA process.

A key activity during this consultation will be the presentation and explanation of the Draft EIS during the formal public review period. This will be achieved through a combination of presentations to the community and the preparation of documents containing the key elements of the Draft EIS which will be suitable for use by Indigenous groups.

Broader consultation activities focussed on engagement of Non-Indigenous groups during the Draft EIS review period will include:

- The placing of adverts in both national and local newspapers detailing the opportunities for members of the public to comment on the Draft EIS during the formal public review period.
- Public display of the Draft EIS during the formal public review period attended by members of the Blacktip Project Team who will be able to answer specific queries.
- Display of the Draft EIS on the project website during the formal public review period.
- Subject to demand, the holding of further briefing sessions and meetings with stakeholder groups to discuss the Draft EIS.

3.6 Conclusion

The community consultation undertaken to date in support of the Draft EIS has resulted in some success in encouraging stakeholder groups to participate in the process. Furthermore, it has provided the proponent with a better understanding of the environmental concerns and issues held by a wide variety of stakeholder groups on the Blacktip Project. This increased understanding of stakeholder issues and concerns will assist in the identification of the main environmental issues concerning the Blacktip Project. It will also support the preparation of effective and tangible preventative and management measures to mitigate any potential adverse environmental impacts resulting from the proposed development.

Whilst the proponent believes that the consultation exercise undertaken to date has been successful; it is fully recognised that further ongoing consultation is required to ensure stakeholder groups continue to participate in the remaining phases of the EIA process. This continued participation by stakeholders will benefit stakeholder groups, regulatory authorities and the proponent, and will result in a more transparent EIA process.

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