

Curtis LNG given nod from govt

THE State Government has granted conditional approval to QGC Pty Limited's multi-billion-dollar Queensland Curtis Liquefied Natural Gas project (QCLNG) near Gladstone.

Premier Anna Bligh confirmed yesterday that Co-ordinator-General (CG) Colin Jensen had completed his review of the Environmental Impact Statement for the BG Group-owned project and approved it with strict conditions.

Ms Bligh said the CG's conditions included community and social benefits such as the provision of affordable housing for Gladstone and the Western Downs.

"As part of the Co-ordinator-General's conditions, project proponent QGC will develop an Integrated Project Housing Strategy to address the need for additional affordable housing," Ms Bligh said.

"QGC will facilitate the development of worker's accommodation in the order of 250 dwellings for the Gladstone region and in the order of 280 dwellings on the Western Downs.

"In addition the proponent is required to mitigate impacts on accommodation for low-income households that may be affected by project-induced rent and house price increases. This may include QGC's facilitation of the development of hundreds of additional dwellings for Gladstone and Western Downs residents relative to the size of the project's workforce."

Community facilities and services would also get a boost, she said.

The project was expected to generate more than \$6 billion a year in exports, employ up to 8000 people during construction and 820 people during its operation.

"This is a great step forward for Queensland and we now await the Federal Government's consideration of this project under its environmental laws," Ms Bligh said.

"If all the necessary approvals are granted and the company confirms its final investment decision later this year, the project could be shipping supplies from 2014."

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