

22 January 2013

CEO Mr Peter Voser
Royal Dutch Shell
PO box 162,
2501 AN The Hague,
The Netherlands

Cc: Shell Australia

Dear Mr Voser ,

We wish to congratulate Shell for its sponsorship of the report on World Heritage Sites and Extractive Industries by Stephen Turner and for its support for the joint IUCN-ICMM workshop held in September last year on interaction between extractive industries and World Heritage sites.

We live in the state of Queensland which proudly includes the magnificent Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, as well as supporting a major mining sector. Your leadership in both these fields is an important lesson for our own Queensland Resources Council which has consistently refused to recognise no-go areas for its activities. We note that your website includes your commitment to protection of our planet's areas of high biodiversity, in particular, that your company 'will not explore for, or develop, oil and gas resources in natural World Heritage Sites.'

<http://www.shell.com/global/environment-society/environment/biodiversity/protected-areas.html>

Sadly major Australian and Chinese investors do not share your company's commitment and our state regulators have proved ineffective at standing up to protect the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area from damaging extractive industry.

In particular your Queensland coal seam gas company, Arrow Energy, is pressing ahead with plans for an LNG plant on Curtis Island which falls within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. A phone call to Arrow Energy about their revised Environmental Impact Statement for the Queensland Government has confirmed that they intend to press ahead with this development and are prepared to misrepresent world heritage boundaries to the Queensland public.

Curtis Island forms part of Gladstone Harbour, a naturally shallow harbour which hosts seagrass meadows which are essential habitat for marine life. The region's diverse marine life was a crucial factor in determining the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage boundaries as many of its species are at risk or endangered, including sea turtles, rare dolphins, dugongs and whales. We have included a list at the end of this letter.

According to the first Environmental Impact Statement released by Arrow Energy in April 2012, up to 1.1 million cubic metres of sea floor will need to be dredged off Curtis Island for

the Shell-Arrow LNG plant. This is required to accommodate the massive ships designed to ferry the resource to international markets.

Since dredging for other LNG plant construction began in May 2011, Gladstone Harbour has been suffering from environmental crisis. In September 2011, the Queensland Government officially closed its waters to fishing and recreational use for three weeks owing to the numbers of diseased fish being caught. Later government studies confirmed that not only fish but also crustaceans and other benthic life of the harbour were sick. To this day, all sharks caught in the harbour continue to be afflicted with a red disease. James Cook University-led research in 2012 also confirmed that no dugongs calves were sighted in the southern Great Barrier Reef in their annual dugong study.

Inappropriate extractive industry development appears to be triggering a crisis for the southern Great Barrier Reef centred on Gladstone Harbour. Development of a fourth LNG plant will allow no time for seagrass meadows which have been under extreme stress since dredging began in May 2011 to recuperate and is likely to harm permanently the region's precious marine life.

Such industrial activity is in breach of your company's commitment to not operate in areas of high biodiversity value and we urge Shell to withdraw from any future LNG plant development on Curtis Island.

We have made a public statement about your company's commitment to protect World Heritage Areas and have attached it to this letter for your information.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Andrew Jeremijenko

Dr Libby Connors

Chad Kirby (Water quality scientist)

Marine life recognised as endangered or vulnerable by Australian governments:

- **Endangered**
- Loggerhead turtle
- Water mouse
- Pacific Ridley turtle
- **Vulnerable**
- Dugong
- Whale-shark

- Humpback whale
- Green turtle
- Leatherback turtle
- Hawksbill turtle
- Flatback turtle