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Dear Mr Jeremijenko, Dr Connors & Mr Kirby

Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

Thank you for your letter dated 22 January 2012 concerning the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and the LNG precinct located on Curtis Island in Queensland.

As you would be aware, Curtis Island, within the Port of Gladstone, was selected by the Queensland State Government as an LNG precinct following an independent review of potential sites along the Queensland coastline. Although Gladstone Port and Curtis Island are deliberately excluded from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, both fall within the south western boundaries the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Site.

The Port has been supporting economic development in Queensland and Australia for decades, while also managing to coexist with the significant conservation values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area.

In 2012, Shell and Arrow Energy supported the UNESCO and SEWPAC strategic impact assessment of the world heritage area. The UNESCO recommendations following the assessment included a request for *'an independent review of the management arrangements for Gladstone Harbour that will result in the optimization of port development and operation in Gladstone Harbour and on Curtis Island, consistent with the highest internationally recognized standards for best practice commensurate with iconic World Heritage status.'*

UNESCO also recommended that the State not allow further industrial development outside of existing long-established major port areas and to ensure that development is not permitted if it would impact individually or cumulatively on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

The Arrow LNG Project, a 50/50 joint venture between Shell and PetroChina, is currently undertaking extensive Environmental Impact Assessments under State and Commonwealth legislation and will be required to satisfy rigorous environmental conditions to enable government approval. The JV is also working with other Curtis Island LNG proponents and the Queensland authorities to minimise the overall environmental footprint and ensure the world heritage area values are maintained.

Shell is committed to protecting the environmental values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and will continue to work with UNESCO and the State and Commonwealth governments to ensure the conservation values and integrity of the area are preserved. We are also supportive of the Commonwealth Government's independent public review of environmental management and governance of the Port of Gladstone, which was one of the World Heritage Area Committee's recommendations from the 2012 joint World Heritage Centre/International Union for Conservation of Nature monitoring mission.

Yours sincerely,



Ann Pickard
Country Chair Australia