



Save the Reef

A member group of Lock the Gate Alliance

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SHELL MUST DROP CURTIS ISLAND LNG PLANT DEVELOPMENT

Queensland environment group Save the Reef has called on the international energy giant, Shell, to withdraw from its partnership with Arrow energy to develop a Liquefied Natural Gas plant on Curtis Island.

“The company made statements in November 2012 that it was concerned about the financial viability of the project but we are calling on them to withdraw on the grounds that the project conflicts with Shell’s public commitment to not ‘explore for, or develop, oil and gas resources in natural World Heritage Sites’” Save the Reef spokesperson Dr Libby Connors said today.

Gladstone Harbour and Curtis Island fall within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage boundaries.

Shell first made this commitment to not operate in World Heritage Areas in 2003 and re-affirmed it after commissioning a report on World Heritage Sites and Extractive Sites in 2012. The company’s commitments are still available on the company’s global website as is the commissioned report.

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

<http://www.socialearth.org/workshop-highlights-extractive-sectors-commitments-to-preserve-world-heritage-sites>

The International Council on Mining and Metals [ICMM] has been working with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature to develop no-go areas which should remain out of bounds to harmful extractive industries because of the importance of their biodiversity.

‘It is very clear that the Queensland Resources Council is way out of step with international best practice when it comes to recognising some areas are too important to mine or develop extractive industries within their boundaries.

‘Some of the world’s biggest miners are members of the ICMM and worked to develop this policy just last year,’ Dr Connors said.

Save the Reef says the fact that the Shell-Arrow LNG plant is to be located on the western side of Curtis Island in the middle of a state Dugong Sanctuary, where herds of about 140 animals used to feed on abundant seagrass, make the LNG plant inconsistent with Shell’s publicly stated commitment to biodiversity.

‘We have been immensely disappointed with the failure of state regulation in Queensland and will be writing directly to Shell asking them to withdraw from this destructive project.’

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