

2. PROJECT APPROVALS

This chapter details the principal approvals required by Arrow to construct, operate and decommission the Surat Gas Project including the role that the environmental impact statement (EIS) plays within this process. Current land-use and planning schemes, policies and regional plans that apply to the project development area are also described herein. Additional legislation, policies and guidelines relevant to the project have been detailed in Attachment 4, Project Relevant Legislation.

The principal approvals required to undertake project activities are:

- Petroleum lease.
- Petroleum pipeline licence (if required).
- Petroleum survey licence (if required).
- Environmental authority.

2.1 Principal Approvals

2.1.1 Petroleum Lease

The project requires petroleum leases under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* (Qld) (P&G Act) before sale of gas can commence.

A petroleum lease authorises the holder of the lease to conduct activities for the exploration and production of coal seam gas within the area of the lease. Key activities include the installation of production wells, gathering lines and pipelines and facilities to extract, transport and process coal seam gas. A petroleum lease also authorises activities required to manage the water produced as a result of coal seam gas production (associated water) such as the construction and operation of dams, pipelines and treatment facilities (see also Section 2.4, Relevant Policies and Guidelines, in relation to management of associated water).

As part of the application for a petroleum lease, Arrow is required to prepare an initial development plan. The initial development plan provides the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) with information about the nature and extent of activities. Arrow will submit initial and revised development plans to the Queensland Government as required under the act.

In accordance with the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*, an activity authorised under the P&G Act and subject to a petroleum lease is exempt from local government planning schemes. However, any activity outside of the area of a petroleum lease (e.g., depots) will require both an assessment under the Sustainable Planning Act and relevant local government planning scheme, and development approvals under the planning scheme.

2.1.2 Petroleum Pipeline Licence

The project requires a petroleum pipeline licence under the P&G Act for the construction and operation of any pipelines required to transport coal seam gas outside the area of a petroleum lease. The licence also allows for 'incidental activities' related to pipeline construction and operation, for example, pipeline compressor stations, valve/scrapper stations, road works, mobile and temporary camps and materials storage located within the licence area.

A petroleum pipeline licence may be required to connect the proposed Arrow facilities to existing or proposed sales gas delivery pipelines.

2.1.3 Petroleum Survey Licence

The project may require a petroleum survey licence under the P&G Act. A survey licence would provide for access to land to investigate, survey and identify a pipeline route associated with a petroleum pipeline licence.

2.1.4 Authority to Prospect

An authority to prospect (ATP) is a petroleum tenement under the P&G Act. This type of tenure allows the holder to undertake gas exploration activities (such as geological and geophysical surveys), chemical or other analyses and environmental, engineering and design studies to evaluate the development potential of the coal seam gas. The P&G Act allows the prospect holder to carry out incidental activities where they are reasonably necessary for, or incidental to, the authorised activity (petroleum exploration). These include construction of roads, water pipelines, temporary camps and powerlines.

Detailed information about the nature of activities to be undertaken must be set out in a work program. If an ATP is to be granted over land where native title has not been extinguished, the prospect holder must also satisfy the requirements of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwth) before the government grants the authority.

An ATP does not allow the sale of gas. Arrow holds various ATPs and authority to prospect applications (ATP(A)s) within the project development area, which the company must convert to petroleum leases in order to undertake the project. As of July 2011, these included ATPs 676, 683, 689, 810; part of ATP 747; and parts of ATP(A) 746 (see Figure F1.1). Arrow will continue to progress tenure applications for land within the project development area as required.

2.1.5 Environmental Authority

Under the Queensland *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) petroleum activities are classified as either level 1 or level 2 chapter 5A activities for which an environmental authority is required. The project (with the exception of the environmental authority to support a petroleum survey licence) requires a level 1 chapter 5A environmental authority for petroleum activities to provide for the proposed infrastructure along with other environmentally relevant activities (ERAs) associated with the project.

Although the project will contain a number of petroleum tenures, a project environmental authority will be applied for, resulting in the giving of one environmental authority for the project. However, in the case of a petroleum pipeline licence (if required), an application for a specific environmental authority will be made. Also, the survey work conducted under a petroleum survey licence is considered to involve minimal or low impact activities under both the EP Act and P&G Act and as such level 2 environmental authority is required.

Arrow will submit both level 1 and level 2 environmental authority applications in accordance with the EP Act, which requires level 1 environmental authority applications to include an environmental management plan.

The purpose of the environmental management plan is to propose environmental protection commitments to assist the administering authority to develop the conditions of the environmental authority. The environmental management plan identifies and describes the environmental values that will be impacted by project activities and must meet the content requirements of the EP Act.

An environmental authority must be issued before a petroleum lease can be granted. For the Surat Gas Project, receipt of an environmental authority will require the approval of the voluntary EIS and an environmental management plan.

Environmentally Relevant Activities (ERAs)

A number of activities associated with the project are deemed level 1 chapter 5A activities that under the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008 are considered to have a 'medium to high risk of causing serious environmental harm'. Table 2.1 details the potential ERAs that will be applicable to the project. Final project design and field development plans have yet to be completed and it is possible that not all of the ERAs in Table 2.1 will be applicable to the project and conversely, that additional ERAs may be identified.

Table 2.1 Environmentally relevant activities

ERAs	Description	Applicable Project Activities
Level 1 chapter 5A activity	Relates to a petroleum activity that is likely to have a significant impact on a category A or B environmentally sensitive area.	Petroleum activities. Chapter 17, Terrestrial Ecology, defines the classification system of a category A and category B environmentally sensitive area and addresses the potential for impacts to these.
Level 1 chapter 5A activity	A petroleum activity carried out on a site containing a high-hazard dam or a significant-hazard dam.	Petroleum activities.
ERA 8 – chemical storage	10 m ³ or more of chemicals of class C1 or C2 combustible liquids under AS 1940 (Standards Australia, 2004a) or dangerous goods class 3.	Storage of chemicals used for coal seam water treatment.
ERA 14 – electricity generation	Electricity generation (the relevant activity) consists of generating electricity by using gas at a rated capacity of 10 megawatt (MW) electrical or more.	Power generation to supply gas compression and water treatment facilities.
ERA 15 – fuel burning	Fuel burning (the relevant activity) consists of using fuel-burning equipment that is capable of burning at least 500 kg of fuel in an hour.	Flaring of gas at gas production facilities.
ERA 56 - regulated waste storage	Regulated waste storage (the relevant activity) consists of operating a facility for receiving and storing regulated waste for more than 24 hours.	Storage of regulated waste prior to treatment (regarding coal seam gas water).
ERA 58 – regulated waste treatment	Regulated waste treatment (the relevant activity) consists of operating a facility for receiving and treating regulated waste or contaminated soil to render the waste or soil non-hazardous or less hazardous.	Temporary storage of brine from coal seam water treatment process.
ERA 43 – concrete batching	Concrete batching (the relevant activity) consists of producing 200 t or more of concrete or concrete products in a year, by mixing cement with sand, rock, aggregate or other similar materials.	May be required if concrete for facility construction is produced at a batching plant.
ERA 60 – waste disposal	Operating a facility for disposing of regulated waste; more than 200,000 t.	Temporary storage of brine from coal seam gas water treatment process.
ERA 63 – sewage treatment	Operating 1 or more sewage treatment works at a site that has a total daily peak design capacity of more than 21 equivalent persons.	Sewerage facilities at construction camp sites and/or production facility sites.

Table 2.1 Environmentally relevant activities (cont'd)

ERAs	Description	Applicable Project Activities
ERA 64 – water treatment	Water treatment (the relevant activity) consists of carrying out any of the following activities in a way that allows waste, whether treated or untreated, to be released into the environment: a. Desalinating 0.5 ML or more of water in a day. b. Treating 10 ML or more of raw water in a day. c. Carrying out advanced treatment of 5 ML or more of water in a day.	Coal seam gas water treatment process.

2.2 EIS Process

The EIS will provide information to evaluate applications. This process is described in the following sections.

2.2.1 Need for an EIS

Arrow lodged an application to prepare a voluntary EIS with DERM on 27 January 2010. An initial advice statement describing the project was submitted with the application. The Chief Executive accepted Arrow's application following consideration of the initial advice statement.

On 27 January 2010, Arrow also referred the project to the Australian Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwth) (EPBC Act). The EPBC Act provides for the protection of the environment, especially in matters of national environmental significance. Under the act, actions likely to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance trigger an Australian Government assessment and approvals.

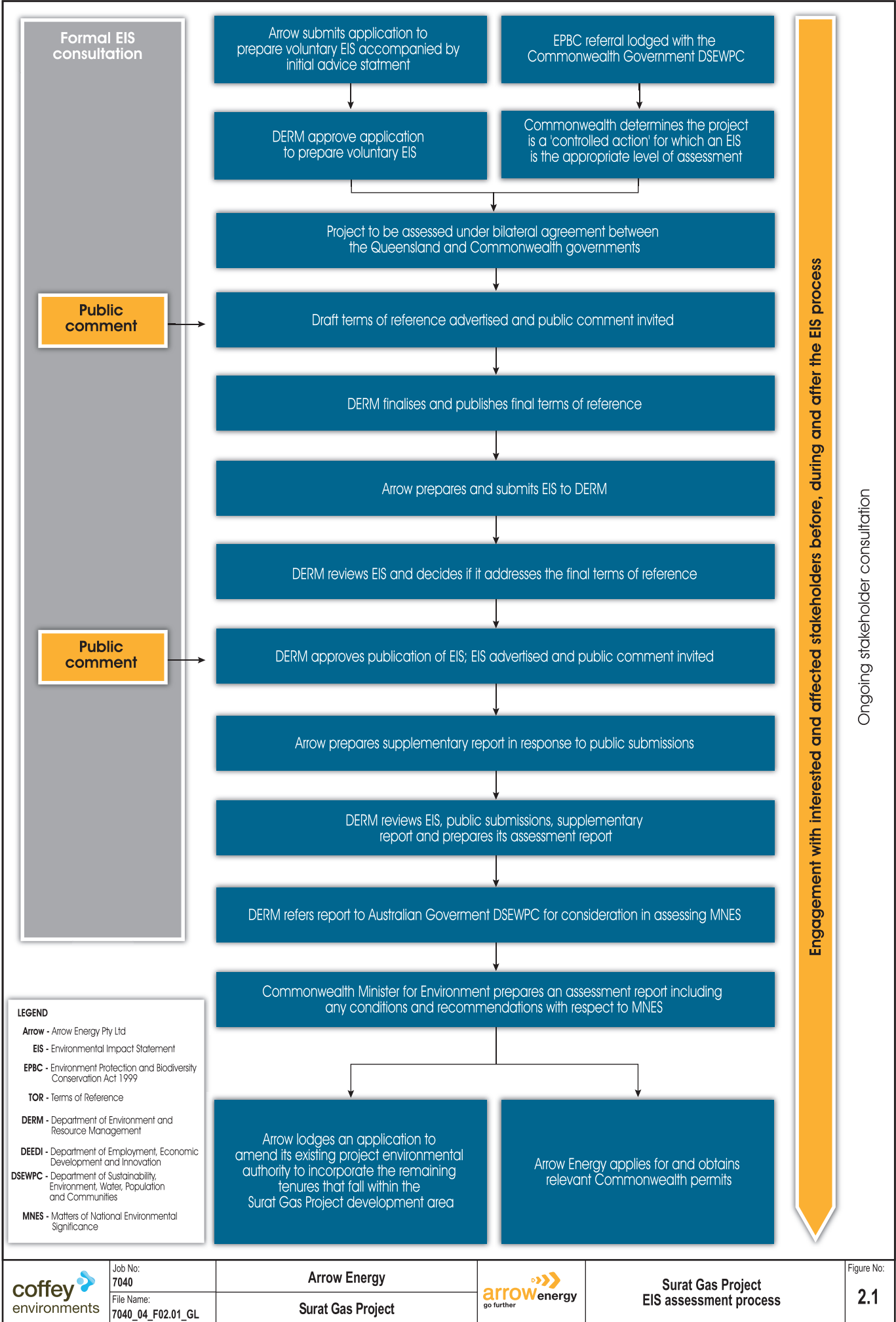
Matters of national environmental significance include World Heritage sites, national heritage places, Ramsar wetlands of international significance, listed threatened species and communities, listed migratory species, nuclear actions and the Commonwealth marine environment.

On 26 March 2010, the Australian Government declared the project a controlled action due to its potential to significantly affect listed threatened species and ecological communities and listed migratory species under the EPBC Act. The Australian Government Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities requires project approval due to the controlled action status.

Under a Bilateral Agreement between the Australian Government and the State of Queensland, the Australian Government has accredited the EP Act process for the purpose of assessment. Pursuant to this agreement, the Surat Gas Project EIS will be coordinated by DERM. Relevant Commonwealth, Queensland and local government authorities have been invited to participate in the EIS process as advisory agencies. The approvals process is shown in Figure 2.1.

2.2.2 Scoping and Preparation of the EIS

The EP Act requires draft terms of reference to be developed as a first step in the EIS process. The terms of reference establishes the potential impacts, environmental issues and requirements that need to be investigated and addressed within the EIS. The process begins with the Chief Executive preparing a draft terms of reference based on the project-specific information provided in the initial advice statement. The terms of reference is then released for public comment.



Formal EIS consultation

Public comment

Public comment

Engagement with interested and affected stakeholders before, during and after the EIS process

Ongoing stakeholder consultation

LEGEND

- Arrow** - Arrow Energy Pty Ltd
- EIS** - Environmental Impact Statement
- EPBC** - Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- TOR** - Terms of Reference
- DERM** - Department of Environment and Resource Management
- DEEDI** - Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation
- DSEWPC** - Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
- MNES** - Matters of National Environmental Significance

On 27 March 2010, DERM published a notice in local and state newspapers advising the comment period during which interested persons could make written submissions on the Surat Gas Project Draft Terms of Reference. The public exhibition period extended from 29 March 2010 to 13 May 2010.

DERM received a total of 54 submissions from government agencies, companies, landholders and private individuals. Arrow provided a written summary of all comments and the company's response to comments to DERM.

Following consideration of comments DERM, in consultation with the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPC), finalised the terms of reference. The Surat Gas Project Final Terms of Reference (Attachment 1) were placed on DERM's website for public viewing and a notice was published in various newspapers.

Arrow commissioned a range of supporting studies to identify the environmental and social values that may be affected by project activities and to address the final terms of reference. Supporting study reports are contained in Appendices A to S of the EIS. These studies are summarised in the main report of the EIS.

2.2.3 Document Submission and Public Exhibition

The draft EIS will be submitted to the Chief Executive of DERM, the Queensland Government department that administers the EP Act. Following a compliance check against the final terms of reference, the EIS will be placed on public exhibition for comment and referred to relevant State government agencies for additional comments. Arrow will publish a notice in state and local newspapers and advise interested and affected persons of the period in which the public can lodge formal submissions with the Chief Executive of DERM. Public exhibition will extend for a minimum of 30 business days.

2.2.4 EIS Assessment Report

DERM will provide copies of relevant public and agency comments to the proponent. Following the receipt of submissions, the proponent must prepare a supplementary report that summarises and addresses the comments and responds to any additional matters identified by DERM.

The Chief Executive prepares an EIS assessment report, which considers how well the EIS has addressed the final terms of reference (and identifies any further information required). The report may also make recommendations on the suitability of the project and recommend conditions to be applied to the project should it proceed.

The report will be provided to the Commonwealth DSEWPC, who will approve, not approve, or approve the EIS with conditions under Part 9 of the EPBC Act.

2.2.5 Project Approval and Conditions

Upon receiving the EIS assessment report and EPBC Act approval, Arrow will lodge an application to amend its existing project environmental authority to incorporate the remaining tenures that fall within the Surat Gas Project development area. The Chief Executive of DERM will consider the state EIS assessment report, Arrow's environmental authority application and the environmental management plan when making a decision whether to grant the environmental authority for the nominated activities.

DEEDI will be notified that the environmental authority has been issued and the Minister will decide if a petroleum lease and a petroleum pipeline licence should be issued under the P&G Act.

2.3 Additional Key Permits and Approvals

In addition to the principal project approvals, other permits and approvals will need to be obtained before certain aspects the project can proceed. These will include, but are not limited to, the permits and approvals described below.

Strategic Cropping Land Compliance Certificate/Protection Decision. The *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011 (Qld)* requires resource companies to apply for a compliance certificate or a protection decision for development on strategic cropping land.

Native Title Agreement. Administered by the Attorney-General's Department, the *Native Title Act 1993* provides for the recognition and protection of native title. If a petroleum tenement is to be granted over land where native title has not been extinguished, Native Title Act requirements must be met before the petroleum tenement can be granted.

In respect of a proponent who may wish to secure an interest (lease, licence, title or the like) in land over which native title may exist, the Native Title Act provides valid statutory processes to allow the parties to reach agreement and for state and territory governments to grant interests over that land. This matter will need to be considered in light of whether Arrow plans to conduct any petroleum activities on land where native title may exist. If so, agreements may need to be reached with relevant Aboriginal groups.

Approval to Interfere with a Railway or State-controlled Road. The *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994* provides a regime that allows for, and encourages effective integrated planning and efficient management of, a system of transport infrastructure. Arrow will be required to obtain approval should it be expected that project activities would interfere with railway lines or state-controlled roads.

Beneficial Reuse Approval for Associated Water. Under the EP Act, the definition for waste excludes a resource that has been approved for beneficial use. Arrow will be required to obtain either a beneficial use approval or an environmental authority that specifically provides for the use of the coal seam gas water for beneficial use(s). Until such time as the coal seam gas water is approved for beneficial use, however, it is considered waste.

Conduct and Compensation Agreement. Queensland's new land access laws came into effect 29 October 2010 (with an associated land access code published in November 2010), and relate to the P&G Act, *Petroleum Act 1923*, *Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009* and *Geothermal Energy Act 2010*. Arrow must satisfy the minimum requirements within this code before gaining land access. The key features of the new laws are:

- All petroleum authority holders must comply with a single Land Access Code.
- An entry notice requirement for 'preliminary activities' that cause no impact or only minor impact on landholders.
- A requirement that a Conduct and Compensation Agreement be negotiated before a petroleum authority holder comes onto a landholder's property to undertake 'advanced activities' that are likely to have a significant impact on business or land use.
- A graduated process for negotiation and resolving disputes about agreements, ensuring that matters are only referred to the Land Court as a last resort.
- Stronger compliance and enforcement powers for government agencies where breaches of the Land Access Code occur.

Cultural Heritage Management Plan. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan will need to be developed and approved in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld). The act binds all persons to meet duty of care provisions and to take all reasonable and practical measures to avoid harming cultural heritage. As such, to comply with the act, either a cultural heritage management plan or a native title agreement or other agreement that addresses cultural heritage will be necessary to meet the intent of the duty of care provisions for the project. The act also provides an exemption from the requirement of a cultural heritage management plan where the project is the subject of either an existing agreement or a native title agreement (unless Aboriginal cultural heritage is expressly excluded from being subject to the agreement).

Clearing Permit. A clearing permit is required to take or move protected plants under the Nature Conservation Act 1992. For the purposes, protected plants include any plant prescribed under the act as threatened, rare or near threatened that is in the wild.

Operational Works Permit. An operational works permit will be required under the Fisheries Act 1994 to remove, destroy, or damage marine plants in the event that Arrow needs to establish waterway barrier works to carry out activities through watercourses, approvals may be required.

Licence for Taking or Interfering with Water. The P&G Act allows the petroleum tenure holder to take or interfere with underground water if taking or interference happens during the course of, or results from, the carrying out of another authorised activity for the tenure. Water taken in this manner may be used to carry out, or used in the process of carrying out, another authorised activity for the tenure.

The petroleum tenure holder may allow the property owner or occupant to use associated water for domestic or stock purposes, provided the water is used on land within the petroleum tenure or on adjoining land that has the same owner.

A petroleum tenure holder's right to take underground water as part of authorised activities are governed by underground water obligations under the P&G Act and the *Water Act 2000*. The holder is required to 'make good' if the taking of water causes a landholder bore to have impaired capacity.

Licence to Store Hazardous Materials. A licence is required to store flammable and combustible liquids under the *Dangerous Goods Safety and Management Act 2001*. The Dangerous Goods Safety and Management Act sets standards for the storage and handling of substances (such as flammable and combustible liquids).

Operational Works Approval. The project lies within the region covered by the Water Resource (Condamine and Balonne) Plan 2004. The Water Resource (Condamine and Balonne) Plan sets a requirement for the taking of, or interfering with, overland flow or subartesian water; therefore, such activities need an operational works approval under schedule 3, table 4 of the Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009. Operational works for taking or interfering with water in a watercourse or artesian water is assessable development under schedule 3 of the Sustainable Planning Regulation. A development permit may be required to take or interfere with water from a watercourse, artesian water, subartesian water or overland flow.

Rehabilitation Permit. A rehabilitation permit under Division 6 of the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006 may be required to allow the movement of wildlife in instances not otherwise authorised under the Nature Conservation Act. Such a permit may be required to allow relocation of wildlife accidentally trapped during construction.

Riverine Protection Permit. Any disturbance (the destruction of vegetation, excavation or placing of fill) to the bed and banks of a watercourse outside a proposed petroleum authority will require a riverine protection permit as per s. 266 of the Water Act.

Water Licences. Water licenses are required under the Water Act to supply coal seam gas water outside of the permitted purposes legislated in the P&G Act. The type and nature of licensing required will be determined by the final associated water management options are known for the project.

Recycled Water Use Management Plan. Arrow will be required to operate under the requirements of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* when providing water commercially. Under the act, water service providers must submit and maintain several management plans including recycled water management plans.

2.4 Relevant Policies and Guidelines

A number of policies and guidelines will also be considered in the assessment of the project. These are provided in Table 2.2 below and also in the impact assessment chapters, 9 to 26 where the policies and guidelines applicable to the protection of the environmental values identified are detailed.

Table 2.2 Relevant policies and guidelines

Policy and Guidelines	Purpose
Coal Seam Gas Water Management Policy 2010	Developed to give direction for the treatment and disposal of coal seam gas water, and the role the government wishes to play in facilitating greater beneficial use. Key features of the policy include discontinuing the use of evaporation ponds as a primary means of disposal of coal seam gas water and making coal seam gas producers responsible for treating and disposing of coal seam gas water. Chapter 5, Project Description describes water management options.
Queensland Biodiversity Offset Policy (version 1) 3 October 2011	Aims to ensure an equivalent or better biodiversity outcome on a state-wide basis, where biodiversity values are lost as a result of development or other activities. The offset policy is triggered as the Surat Gas Project is a level 1 petroleum activity under the EP Act. The objectives of the policy are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the long-term protection and viability of the state's biodiversity. • Increase the area of habitat restored and enhanced. • Ensure development in Queensland is ecologically sustainable. Chapter 17, Terrestrial Ecology, provides details of biodiversity offset measures.
Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008 (EPP (Air))	Aims to achieve the objectives of the EP Act in relation to Queensland's air quality environment by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing and protecting identified environmental values. • Involving the community. • Ensuring the consistency of management decisions. Arrow proposes to meet the objectives of the EPP (Air) as outlined in Chapter 9, Air Quality.

Table 2.2 Relevant policies and guidelines (cont'd)

Policy and Guidelines	Purpose
Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008 (EPP (Noise))	<p>Aims to achieve the objectives of the EP Act in relation to Queensland's noise environment. This is achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying the environmental values that need to be enhanced and/or protected. • Providing the framework for management programs and noise assessments. • Providing information about noise to the community. <p>Arrow proposes to meet the objectives of the EPP (Noise) as outlined in Chapter 20, Noise and Vibration, of this EIS, and the environmental management plan.</p>
Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Policy 2000 (EPP (Waste))	<p>Aims to achieve the objectives of the EP Act in relation to waste management by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing the framework for minimising waste generation, maximising the usage of waste, efficient use of resources and maintaining ecologically sustainable principles. • Identifying environmental values, e.g., life, health and wellbeing, diversity of ecological processes and ecosystems. • Enhancing and protecting the environmental values for land use. • Providing the framework for waste management programs. <p>Chapter 5, Project Description, and Chapter 26, Waste Management discuss proposed waste strategies and management for the project.</p>
Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997 (EPP (Water))	<p>Aims to achieve the objectives of the EP Act, e.g., sustainable development relating to Queensland's waters. The EPP (Water) also governs the discharge of wastewater to land, surface water and groundwater and it aims to protect the designated environmental values. The environmental values for groundwater and surface resources are detailed in Chapter 14, Groundwater, and Chapter 15, Surface Water. Arrow has identified potential impacts and proposed control and mitigation measures to protect these values.</p>
Waste Water Discharge to Queensland Waters Operational Policy. Note that this policy is currently under review	<p>Provides information for the assessment of development applications or environmental authority applications for ERAs discharging residual wastewater to Queensland waters. It includes the consideration of mixing zones, assimilative capacity, environmental offsets and environmental values and water quality objectives. Chapter 15, Surface Water, describes water quality objectives.</p>

2.5 Planning Processes and Standards

The Sustainable Planning Act is the principal item of legislation regulating both development and planning in Queensland. Under this act, the Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS) is used as a common scheme for public authorities to adhere to when assessing development applications.

2.5.1 Planning Framework

The Sustainable Planning Act identifies 'assessable development' that requires development approval. However, schedule 4 of the Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009 exempts petroleum activities from the types of assessable development listed in schedule 3 such as:

- Any development made assessable by a planning scheme.
- Material changes of use for ERAs, land use and contaminated land.
- Operational works for vegetation clearing.

These exemptions apply only for petroleum activities conducted within petroleum tenures. Approval for associated activities conducted outside the petroleum tenures, such as the

establishment of depots, will require development approval. The Sustainable Planning Act identifies the code by which assessable development will be assessed. Often, this is other related legislation and the associated local government planning scheme.

Although petroleum activities are exempt, the Surat Gas Project has considered the key state planning policies and local planning schemes. The state planning policies and their purpose is provided in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3 Planning policies and regional plans

State Planning Policies and Regional Plans	Purpose
State Planning Policy 1/92: Development and the Conservation of Agricultural Land	The location of good quality agricultural land (GQAL) is detailed in the local planning schemes. There are four classes of agricultural land (Classes A, B, C and D) with Class A land holding the highest rating for agricultural land and Class D considered non-agricultural land. Section 3.3 of this policy outlines the required considerations when development is proposed on GQAL. This section states that: 'The best and most versatile farming land has a special importance and should not be built on unless there is an overriding need for the development in terms of public benefit and no other site is suitable for the particular purpose.' The detailed assessment of potential impacts on GQAL is provided in Chapter 13, Agriculture.
State Planning Policy 1/03: Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Flood, Bushfire and Landslide	Seeks to minimise the potential adverse impacts of flood, bushfire and landslide on people, property, economic activity and the environment. Section 8.17, Hazard and Risk, of the EIS addresses the potential impacts of natural hazards in detail. Flood risk information is also provided in Chapter 15, Surface Water, and landslide information is provided in Chapter 12, Geology, Landform and Soils.
State Planning Policy 2/10: Koala Conservation in South East Queensland	Aims to ensure that koala habitat conservation is taken into account in planning processes within the South East Queensland Koala Protection Area. Chapter 17, Terrestrial Ecology, addresses potential impacts to sensitive habitats.
State Planning Policy 4/10: Healthy Waters	Aims to ensure that development is planned, designed, constructed and operated to manage stormwater and wastewater in ways that protect water environmental values, specified in EPP Water. The draft policy sets out planning requirements and development assessment criteria. The detailed assessment of potential impacts to water is provided in Chapter 15, Surface Water.
State Planning Policy 1/12: Protection of Queensland's strategic cropping land	The policy provides the framework for the protection of Queensland's highest quality cropping land, which is a finite resource that needs to be conserved and managed to ensure its long term productivity. The policy objectives are met through the identification of protection and management areas that prohibit or limit development. Avoidance is a key principle of the policy with minimisation and mitigation of impacts required for temporary impacts and in exceptional circumstances, permanent impacts. The detailed assessment of potential impacts to strategic cropping land is provided in Chapter 13, Agriculture.
State Planning Policy 5/10: Air, Noise and Hazardous Materials	Provides direction for the preparation of local planning instruments and in development assessment. The intent of this direction is to protect the environmental values, human safety and the viability of industrial development in Queensland. Aspects of this policy have been considered in the assessment of environmental values in Chapter 9, Air Quality, Chapter 20, Noise and Vibration and Chapter 25, Preliminary Hazard and Risk.

Table 2.3 Planning policies and regional plans

State Planning Policies and Regional Plans	Purpose
Draft Policy for the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin (QMDC, 2009)	Aims to address impacts of the mining and energy industries on the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin's natural resources. Provides a framework for decision-making and to understand the relationship between impacts and short- and long-term roles for the region.
Water Resource (Condamine and Balonne Basin) Plan	Water resource plans are implemented and monitored by DERM. They are designed to meet Queensland's future water requirements through sustainable water allocation and management that balance the needs of the environment and the human population. Water resource planning is governed by the Water Act and the strategies specified in the water resource plan are implemented through resource operations plans. They detail the practical business of sharing and managing the water resources at a day-to-day and local level that fulfils the objectives of the water resource plan.
Water Resource (Fitzroy Basin) Plan	
Water Resource (Great Artesian Basin) Plan	
Water Resource (Moonie Basin) Plan	

2.5.2 Planning Schemes

Under the Sustainable Planning Act, each relevant local government area administers a planning scheme. These planning schemes provide a local framework to implement the principles and outcomes in the local context.

The project is situated across the following three local government jurisdictions: Western Downs Regional Council, Goondiwindi Regional Council and Toowoomba Regional Council (Figure 2.2).

The regional councils were formed in March 2008 upon the amalgamation of the following former shires and towns (note that only those former shires relevant to this project have been listed and that the existing councils also include other former shires and towns that lie outside the project development area):

- Dalby Town, and Chinchilla, Murilla, Taroom, Tara and Wambo shires (Western Downs Regional Council).
- Inglewood and Waggamba (Goondiwindi Regional Council).
- Pittsworth, Millmerran, and Jondaryan (Toowoomba Regional Council).

Presently, the former town and shire planning schemes direct the assessment of development approval applications. Consolidated schemes have not yet been finalised for the amalgamated councils. There are 11 planning schemes that must be considered for the project.

The planning scheme codes that are applicable to the project development area are provided in Appendix A, Planning Assessment.

The majority of the project development area is zoned rural under the various planning schemes. Rural zones primarily support agricultural-based activities, with the general aim of retaining viability for primary production where appropriate, and maintaining the natural environment and rural amenity. The project development area also consists of rural residential zones that predominantly support rural residential development and generally comprise detached dwellings in a rural setting.

In general, each former shire contains at least one area of land designated as an industrial zone. These are normally in close proximity to townships and have access to transport infrastructure. Industrial designations are typically located within or on the outskirts of the main towns within the

area (e.g., Dalby and Chinchilla). The planning schemes seek to protect existing industrial uses and to contain any detrimental environmental effects within the industrial sites.

