



case study

creating value in onslow, western Australia

human energy®





Residents of the Western Australian coastal town of Onslow describe it as a sleepy and isolated place with a fierce sense of community.

Geoff Herbert, a former head of the Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), moved to Onslow 13 years ago. “You would literally see tumbleweeds rolling down the street,” he said. “There were hardly any employment or business opportunities in town. Now Onslow is one of the best-placed communities in northwest Western Australia for job and business opportunities.”

What triggered this change?

The answer is a 25-minute drive southwest of Onslow to the Wheatstone Project. Operated by Chevron Australia Pty Ltd, the Wheatstone Project is Australia’s first third-party liquefied natural gas (LNG) hub and one of the country’s largest resource developments.

Plant construction began in 2011, and Wheatstone achieved its first LNG in October 2017. Nigel Hearne, managing director of the Australasia business unit, said, “Chevron Australia is making a significant economic contribution to the long-term future of Australia, with the Wheatstone Project having already spent a combined \$17 billion plus—AU\$20 billion plus—on local goods and services and having created more than 7,000 jobs during peak construction.”

“We have a track record of more than 60 years of exploration and production in Western Australia and are committed to bringing lasting benefits to the Onslow community and the broader Pilbara region. Beyond energy, we invest significantly in people, projects and communities to unlock potential for progress and prosperity.”

— Rob Dobrik
Wheatstone Project Asset Manager

economic impact of wheatstone

estimated benefits to Australia over the project's lifetime

gross domestic product



AU\$180 billion+

added to Australia's GDP
from 2009 to 2040

job growth



30,000+

direct and indirect full-time
equivalent jobs created

local suppliers



300+ contracts

awarded to
Australian companies

supporting economic development in Australia and onslow

Chevron Australia's investment in Australia and Onslow has been substantial. Since 2009, we have spent more than AU\$20 billion on local goods and services through roughly 300 contracts with different Australian companies. Since 2011, we have spent more than AU\$455 million with Onslow businesses and organizations for site construction contracts and town-based services such as transport, catering, venue hire and general supplies.

At peak construction, the Wheatstone Project created employment for more than 7,000 people. The project is expected to generate more than 30,000 direct and indirect jobs in Australia over its 30-year life. All told, the project is forecast to add more than AU\$180 billion to Australia's gross domestic product, nearly AU\$6 billion per year.

NTC Contracting provides the Wheatstone Project with earth-moving and civil services and was one of the first contractors onsite six years ago. It has employed from 30 to 130 people, depending on project needs.

"There's more stability in Onslow because there's a base of long-term employment opportunities," said NTC Contracting Managing Director Jason Varcoe. "Chevron Australia has great people within its business working hard to ensure local businesses are considered."

Another business benefiting from the Wheatstone Project is Mackerel Islands Pty Ltd (MIPL), which provides some of the Wheatstone Project's workforce with onshore accommodations in Onslow, meals and hire vehicles. The business takes its name from the Mackerel Islands, a series of 10 pristine islands and atolls located 20 minutes by boat off the coast of Onslow.

MIPL CEO Drew Norrish said that when the Wheatstone Project increased demand for housing, the business fast-tracked redevelopment plans and expanded its tourism business. Its staff grew from 17 to 42.

The Wheatstone Project's most significant legacy is better access to long-term tourism opportunities, Norrish said. "Now there's an airport in Onslow—we've been able to overcome the tyranny of distance we once faced. People fly directly into Onslow, stay in high-quality accommodations and visit the Mackerel Islands."





providing long-term improvements in onslow

Among many local residents there is a new sense of long-term opportunities. “I’ve been here 67 years,” said retired Onslow businesswoman Dawn McAuley. “A lot has changed in the past five to six years since Chevron Australia came to town. Hopefully, it will bring work for my grandkids and my great-grandkids.”

Together with our Wheatstone Project joint-venture participants, Chevron Australia strives to enhance the quality of life for people who live and work in Onslow through community partnerships, social and critical infrastructure, and economic development programs.

The Wheatstone Project has committed more than AU\$250 million to local social and critical infrastructure projects to upgrade health, education and recreation services and facilities as well as road, power and water infrastructure. Among these projects are a new hospital, a shire administration complex, an all-weather access road into town, an airport terminal and runway, housing for government workers, and upgrades to power and water systems.

“We believe issues of health, education and economic development are foundational to our mutual progress, so we bring together the people, resources and expertise to deliver lasting change on a local level,” said Chevron Australia Policy, Government and Public Affairs General Manager Peter Fairclough.

Since construction began, the Wheatstone Project has also committed more than AU\$8 million to community organizations and programs in Onslow. For example, we partner with Onslow School to improve literacy and numeracy skills and encourage interest in science, technology, math and engineering. We also support the OCCl and Working Together for Onslow, a partnership with the local shire. In addition, we support the V-Swans Active

Education program, which delivers year-round education and community activities through sports, and the Onslow Kids Kitchen Garden, which offers weekly gardening and cooking classes to foster healthier lives and comradery among students.

Chantelle King, CEO of the OCCl, sees her community writing its next chapter. “Before, it was this sleepy little fishing town that nobody knew existed, and now we’re on the map!” she said. “The town is growing, and it’s offering more services, so people want to stay longer. They want to be here.”

Photos

Cover: Local students collecting cooking ingredients at the Onslow Kids Kitchen Garden. **1:** Aerial photo of Onslow, Western Australia, where Chevron Australia Pty Ltd has spent more than AU\$455 million with more than 90 Onslow-area businesses and organizations since 2011. **2:** NTC Contracting Managing Director Jason Varcoe, foreground, with his team of employees at the Wheatstone Project. **This page:** Mackerel Islands CEO Drew Norrish, foreground, with his Onslow Beach Resort team.



additional resources

Wheatstone Project:

chevron.com/projects/wheatstone

Chevron in Onslow:

australia.chevron.com/community/chevron-in-onslow

Video: Partnering with the Community at Onslow, Western Australia

youtube.com/watch?v=cL9_IQDAVuE

Infographic: Creating Prosperity in Australia

chevron.com/stories/creating-prosperity-in-australia

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