



fact sheet

barrow island a special place

human energy®



Barrow Island is the second largest island off the coast of Western Australia.

Its rich biodiversity provides a snapshot in time of what the Australian mainland was like some 8,000 to 10,000 years ago before it separated from the mainland.

The island is home to a number of plant and animal species that have become rare or extinct on the mainland, including around 378 species of native plants, 13 species of mammal, 119 species of terrestrial and migratory birds and 43 species of reptile. It is these attributes and many others that make Barrow Island a Class A Nature Reserve

chevron and barrow island

Barrow Island became a public reserve for flora and fauna in 1908, a classification upgraded to a Class A Nature Reserve in 1910.

Fifty years later, West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd announced oil discovery on Barrow Island as the first oil flowed in 1964. Chevron later became operator of the asset. The Gorgon field was discovered in deep water west of Barrow Island in 1980 and is now known as the Chevron-operated Gorgon Project.

Conservation and technology have now coexisted on Barrow Island for almost fifty years. Chevron worked with Australian Naturalist the late Dr Harry Butler to ensure the successful development of Barrow Island oilfields whilst protecting the native flora and fauna.

protecting a class a nature reserve

Chevron implemented over 300+ environmental procedures to help retain the Class A Nature Reserve status. The project's plant and infrastructure has been deliberately sited to avoid areas of particular conservational significance.

The Gorgon Project will also be one of the most greenhouse gas efficient natural gas developments in the world. The Gorgon design includes one of the world's largest carbon capture projects that will make an important contribution to the management of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

a world-class biosecurity system

The introduction of non-indigenous species is one of the greatest global challenges of the 21st century. In response to the risk of introducing non-native species to Barrow Island, a comprehensive Quarantine Management System (QMS) was developed for Gorgon.

The Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority considers Chevron's system "likely to be world's best practice."

Thirteen material pathways were identified by which non-indigenous species might gain entry to the island. A set of detailed biosecurity barriers was implemented to reduce the likelihood of introductions. These barriers include physical, chemical and biological interventions before all equipment goes to Barrow Island. Equipment is thoroughly cleaned, fumigated, and shrink wrapped before transportation.

Chevron's QMS has been recognised with several awards between 2011 and 2015, notably the 2015 Australian Biosecurity Award from the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture.