



15 August 2013

Mr Ian Blayney MLA  
Chairman  
Economics & Industry Standing Committee  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ian

**Committee inquiry into the economic implications of floating liquefied natural gas operations**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a response to the Economics and Industry Standing Committee into the issues associated with the inquiry terms of reference.

Challenger Institute of Technology is committed to maintaining strong industry connections and developing training programs that meet our clients' needs. Our Australian Centre for Energy and Process Training (ACEPT) training centre services the workforce development requirements of companies involved in the North-West Shelf project.

Attached, for your reference, is Challenger Institute's submission in response to the Committee's inquiry into the economic implications of floating liquefied natural gas operations.

Should you require any further information in relation to this submission, please feel free to contact Melanie Sorensen, General Manager Training Services, at [melanie.sorensen@challenger.wa.edu.au](mailto:melanie.sorensen@challenger.wa.edu.au).

Yours sincerely

**Liz Harris**  
Chief Executive Officer

*Encl. Submission by Challenger Institute of Technology to the Economics and Industry Standing Committee*



## **SUBMISSION FOR ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRY STANDING COMMITTEE**

### **Inquiry into the Economic Implications of Floating Liquefied Natural Gas Operations**

Challenger Institute of Technology is home to the Australian Centre for Energy and Process Training (ACEPT), the premier provider of training for the oil and gas, pharmaceutical, chemical and mining industry careers. Based in Munster, in Perth's south metropolitan region, ACEPT is a highly regarded training facility that services industry in Western Australia and the Northern Territory, and increasingly Queensland.

ACEPT is the only facility of its kind in the southern hemisphere; it features a full-scale process plant that allows students to experience a simulated industry environment. The world-class facilities at ACEPT represent a \$21 million investment by the State and Federal governments. ACEPT has trained over 4,000 students since its opening in 2008.

The centre works closely with the oil and gas sector and has strong support from industry partners, including Chevron Australia, BHP Billiton, Apache, Inpex, Shell and Woodside. An Industry Management Board, led by State Training Board chair Keith Spence, guides ACEPT in setting strategic priorities and comprises of representatives from leading resources companies.

ACEPT provides programs for new entrants and existing workers, from entry to associate professional level. On completion of a certificate IV or diploma qualification, graduates can apply for entry to a wide range of courses at university. The centre is committed to increasing the participation of under-represented groups in the oil and gas workforce, such as women and Aboriginal people.

ACEPT's training programs attract a diverse range of international students and has forged ties with companies and organisations in the Middle East, Indonesia, Mongolia, East Timor, Papua New Guinea, Brunei, Chile and many other parts of the world.

ACEPT provides a comprehensive range of workforce development services to industry. An example of this commitment to meeting industry demands is the acquisition and installation of a \$1.3m binary distillation column, the first in Australia to be purchased by a registered training organisation.

#### **Current situation**

ACEPT is currently leveraging a new form of technology to enable the unique learning at the Munster campus to be more widely available to people in remote locations, thus increasing the capacity of the centre. In partnership with Apache and Honeywell, the '*Interactive Learning Model: Remote access to ACEPT process plant Project*' is researching and developing options for regional workforces to have external, real time, access to the simulated process plant. The approach to learning and use of technology will enable companies to retain workers on site, saving time, man-hours and travel expenses whilst still increasing workforce capability.

In collaboration with Curtin University, ACEPT has established a dedicated centre to provide floating liquefied natural gas (FLNG) training to Shell employees. The consortium will see Challenger



Institute, as a partner in the Global Centre for FLNG Learning and Research, delivering technical training to Shell employees on the FLNG in the world. With forecasted growth in FLNG technology in future years ACEPT are striving to be at the cutting edge of training for this innovative use of LNG processing.

ACEPT's highly successful Women in Engineering program was recently expanded to include Diploma and Advanced Diploma scholarships. The Women in Engineering program is delivered in partnership with Chevron Australia, and supports women to learn the skills required for employment in construction industries associated with WA's resources industry. A key focus of the course is to engage the participants with female engineer role models and to address barriers that might discourage women from entering an engineering career.

ACEPT has recently hosted a number of international study groups seeking knowledge about the centre's partnerships with the resources sector. Government and industry representatives of predominantly African nations have visited ACEPT to better understand Australia's mining governance structures and to learn how the centre collaborates with industry and government to address skills shortages.

In partnership with Chevron Australia, ACEPT is also delivering the Gorgon Entry Skills Training Program – a unique training initiative that is providing employment opportunities on the Chevron-operated Gorgon Project. ACEPT provides hands-on training and exposure to the tools, processes and tasks required to work in the resources sector. The students receive a number of recognised industry tickets as well as units of competency from certificate level qualifications. Through the involvement of Gorgon contractors Agility, CB&I Kentz Joint Venture, Mammoet and DB Schenker, successful graduates of the program are offered employment opportunities with the Gorgon Project.

### **Future planning and growth**

In order to sustain ACEPT's high levels of service delivery and demand into the future, Challenger Institute is seeking to increase ACEPT's scope and capacity to be at the cutting edge of technology as many projects move into the operational phases.

Challenger Institute is seeking support from Department of Training and Workforce Development for ACEPT Phase 2 – a \$15 million plan which requires new infrastructure to be built on the Munster site, to meet the growing demands for skilled workers for the LNG and FLNG industries.

With an expanded capacity via ACEPT Phase 2, Challenger seeks to train an estimated 3,000 graduates annually for the LNG, FLNG and resource industries. A focus on the new centre will be programs for:

- plant supervisors and managers
- engineering technicians at all levels and streams
- associated technical roles in the supply chain.