



FLNG Safety Sub .17
FLNG Safety Submission 17

WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE
**OFFICE OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
TRAFFIC & EMERGENCY RESPONSE**
POLICE HEADQUARTERS
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Your Ref: A472322
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Inquiries: Superintendent John LINDLEY

Mr Ian Blayney MLA
Chairman
Economic and Industry Standing Committee
Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
Perth WA 6000

Dear Mr Blayney

Inquiry into safety-related matters relating to FLNG projects: Request for a submission

I refer to your letter of 10 November 2014 requesting Western Australia Police as the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) responsible for Marine Search and Rescue make a submission to your committee in relation to the response to an emergency situation relating to a Floating Liquefied Natural Gas (FLNG) facility.

As the HMA, the Commissioner of Police is responsible for persons lost or in distress on inland waterways, within the limits of a port or in a fishing vessel or pleasure craft within the limits of a port or at sea. (Regulation 16(d) *Emergency Management Regulations 2006* [WA]). This applies to all incidents and vessels. WA Police is also the HMA for a Terrorist Act.

Whilst WA Police is the HMA, immediate response and co-ordination will be made by the best placed authority until co-ordination responsibility is allocated according to the National Search and Rescue manual Schedule B. In most cases this will be WA Police or the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).

For the purpose of co-ordination responsibility under the National Search and Rescue manual, the Department of Transport is the HMA. The Marine Safety General Manager Department of Transport has responsible for an actual or impending event involving a ship that is capable of causing loss of life, injury to a person or damage to the health of a person or damage to the health of a person, property or the environment.

The *Emergency Management Act 2005* (WA) applies out to three nautical miles from the Territorial Sea Baseline (normally low tide mark). WA Police have some agreed obligations outside the three nautical miles zone under the National Search and Rescue Arrangements and if police have coordination they will undertake all response actions,

including asset identification and deployment. Not dictated to or limited by distance – only by capability

In relation to Crimes at Sea (out to 200 nautical miles) WA Police have criminal investigation powers out from 12 nautical miles to 200 nautical miles from the Territorial Sea Baseline for an Australian registered ship or fixed platform. In relation to terrorism, the Commonwealth's Border Protection Command has responsibility for response seaward of the Territorial Sea Baseline.

WA Police have given consideration to providing the committee with a detailed submission in relation to the matter, however it is difficult for WA Police to provide specific opinions and examples on the issues requested. A number of clarifications are required before WA Police can provide the committee with the appropriate information for their inquiry, these include:

1. The location of the FLNG in relation to the shore;
2. Whether or not the vessel is a ship or designated as a platform;
3. What the working population is on board the vessel;
4. What the capabilities of the vessel are;
5. Whether the vessel will have a helicopter and the number of life rafts and support vessels;
6. What the vessel's response is to man over board, a fire or gas leak; and
7. Whether the vessel has divers, search boat capability or repair capability

The most crucial factor which will affect the response by WA Police is the distance of the vessel to shore. WA Police assets are in some instances limited to certain distances and their capability over water.

Yours sincerely

Craig Donaldson APM
ACTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
TRAFFIC AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

5TH December 2014