

# Australian LNG – Cost myths and truths

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# Headlines indicating the high cost of Australian LNG





## Is it true, and what are the contributing factors?



A number of factors have been highlighted as contributing to the high cost of Australian LNG projects, including:

- Foreign exchange rates
- Australian labour costs
- Project delays and productivity

RISC has analysed these factors, and also looked at 2 others

- The impact of decisions and assumptions made early in the project
- Collaboration

## **Foreign Exchange Rates**



- Projects generally assumed a weaker
  AUD than was experienced
- Revised budgets in 2012 indicated
  FOREX as a major factor
- Estimated overall impact ~10%
- A bigger impact for East Coast projects than for West Coast
  - Onshore vs. Offshore



### **Labour Costs**



For ~50% Local Content
 If we assume ~50% of LC is labour

20% increase in Australian labour costs = 5% increase in total costs

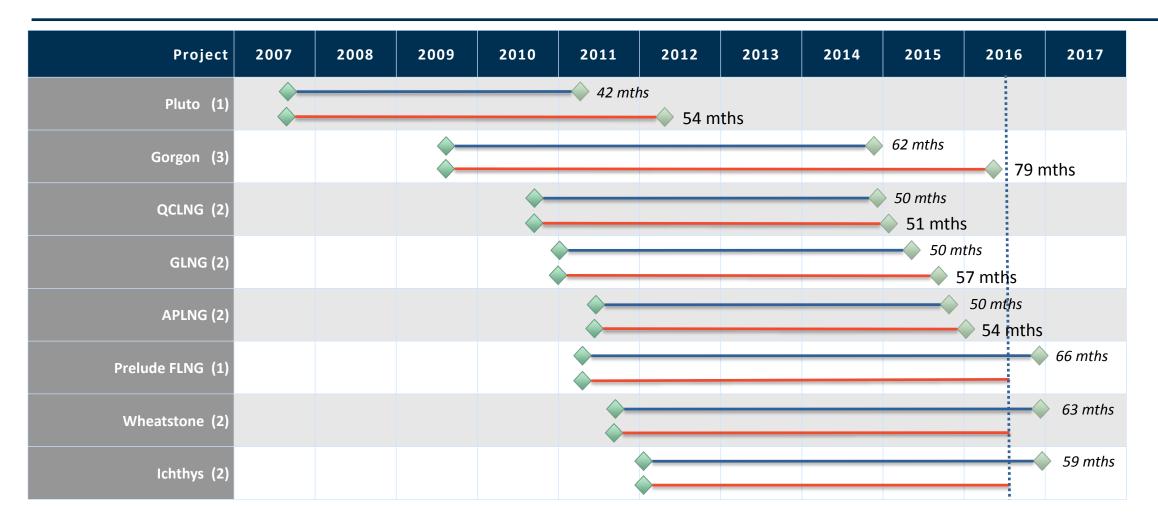
 East coast projects higher local content than West Coast projects



Source: Bechtel, Bechtel Copyright

# **Project Delays and Productivity**





# Like for like comparison (or close to it)



#### **Australian East Coast Projects**

- Greenfield location
- Small Jetty into sheltered water
- Island location (Sheltered Channel)
- Near industrial area (but no road access)
- 2 Trains
- 2 Storage Tanks
- Lean gas no liquids

- ~US\$20 bln Total
- ~US\$10-12 bln Downstream (in a period ~parity)
- ~54 months from sanction to first LNG
- Most significant delays pre-sanction

#### **Corpus Christi**

- Greenfield location
- Small Jetty into sheltered water
- River location
- Industrial area with good road access
- 2 Trains
- 2 Storage Tanks
- Lean gas no liquids
- No upstream content

- US\$11.5 bln
- Planned 42 months execution
- Significant approval delays pre-sanction

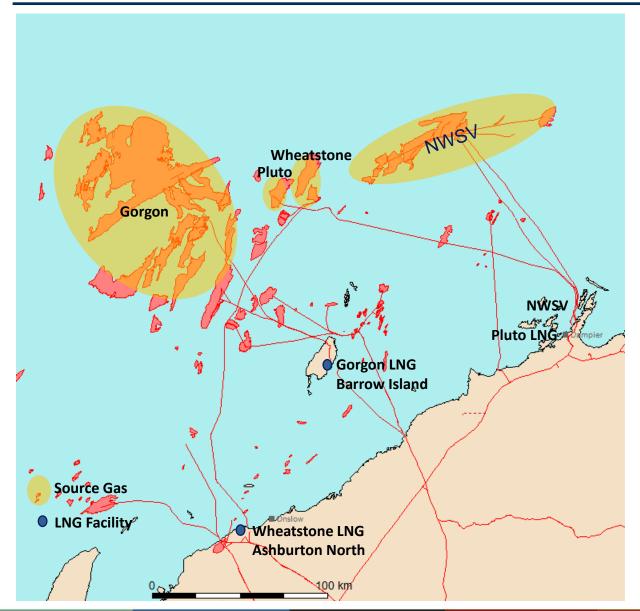
## Decisions taken early in the project cycle



- Pluto invested in infrastructure for 2 trains, but has not expanded beyond 1 train
- Gorgon
  - Remote Island
  - Class A Nature Reserve
  - CO<sub>2</sub> injection
- CSG-LNG projects assumed lower number of wells than now planned
- Prelude, new technology
- Wheatstone on a site, previously not chosen for Pluto or Gorgon, suitable for up to 5 trains
- Ichthys LNG plant 900km away from fields
  - Longest subsea pipeline in the southern hemisphere

# The results of lack of collaboration

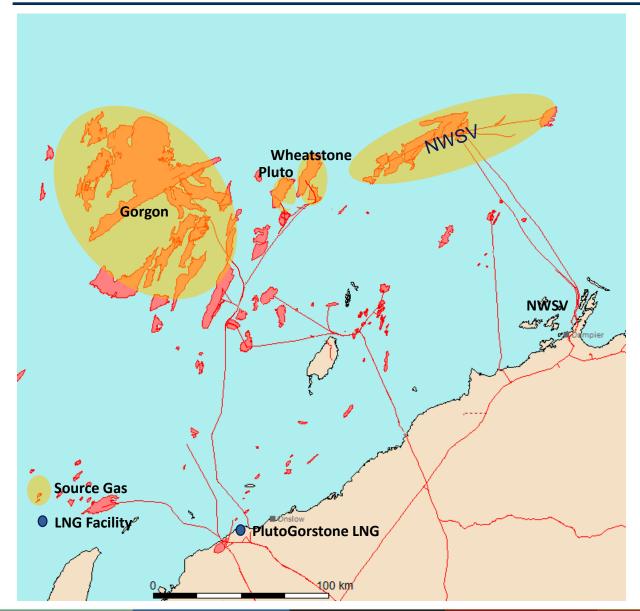






## Possible collaborative outcome?

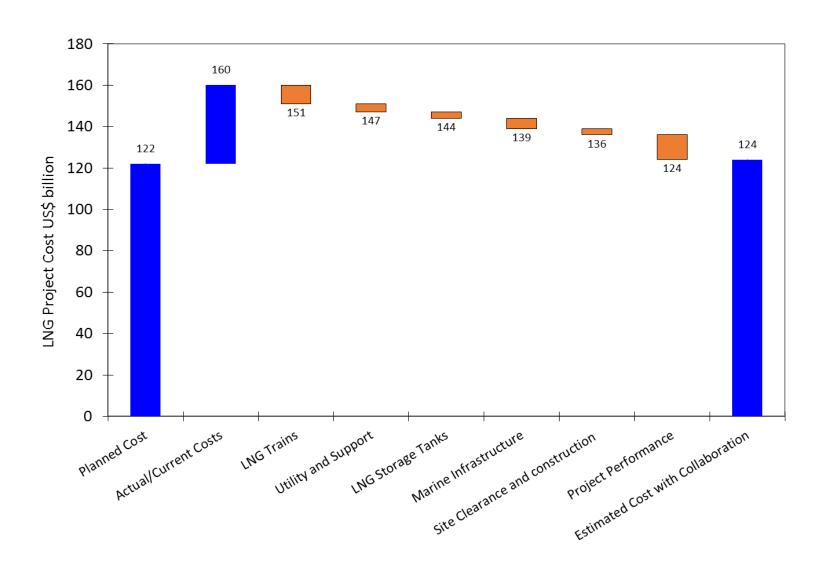






## **Estimated cost of lack of collaboration**





#### **Conclusions**



- It's difficult to support that FOREX and labour costs have had significant impact on project costs
- Delays clearly have impacted projects
  - But not all delays are due to lack of/low local Australian productivity
- Decisions taken early in project life cycle have had significant impact on projects
- Better collaboration would have resulted in significant capital expenditure savings across the projects
  - Australia is not unique in this aspect
- How can the industry do better?
  - How can we encourage real collaboration?



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