- Western Australia has an established and reliable liquefied natural gas (LNG) export industry. The State’s first LNG project, the North West Shelf, will celebrate 30 years of LNG exports in 2019.
- Western Australian LNG projects are located close to Asia, the region with the largest consumption of LNG.
- As foundation investment partners and customers, Japanese utility companies helped establish Western Australia’s LNG industry. Japan remains the destination for most of Western Australia’s LNG exports.
- In 2006, Western Australia became the first jurisdiction in the world to export LNG to China. Western Australian LNG projects also have long-term contracts signed with customers in South Korea and India.
- High gas prices in the 2000s prompted major investment in Western Australia’s LNG industry. Western Australia currently has five operating LNG export projects with a total capacity of close to 50 million tonnes per annum (mtpa).
- Perth hosted the 18th International Conference and Exhibition on LNG (LNG18) in April 2016.

**Global LNG export capacity: 2016**

![Chart showing global LNG export capacity with data points for various countries and regions.]

- The International Group of LNG Importers estimates that at the end of 2016, global LNG export capacity was 340 mtpa.
- Australia’s capacity at the end of 2016 was 61.3 mtpa, which included the:
  - North West Shelf, Pluto and Gorgon (LNG trains 1 and 2) projects in Western Australia (totalling 32.2 mtpa);
  - Darwin project in the Northern Territory (3.7 mtpa); and
  - Queensland Curtis, Gladstone and Australia Pacific projects in Queensland (25.4 mtpa).
- Gorgon train 3 and Wheatstone train 1 began production during 2017. If all remaining projects under construction commence as scheduled (Prelude and Wheatstone train 2 in Western Australia; and Ichthys in the Northern Territory), Australia’s total LNG production capacity will be 88 mtpa by mid-2018.
- Australia will then have the largest LNG export capacity of any country, surpassing Qatar’s 77 mtpa.

**Western Australia’s LNG export capacity**

![Chart showing Western Australia’s LNG export capacity with data points for different years.]

- The North West Shelf project originally comprised two trains in 1989. A third, fourth and fifth train were developed in 1992, 2004 and 2008, raising total capacity to 16.9 mtpa.
- The Pluto project (single 4.9 mtpa train) began exporting in May 2012.
- The Gorgon project (15.6 mtpa, three trains) began exports from its first train in March 2016 and production from its second and third trains in October 2016 and March 2017.
- The Wheatstone project (8.9 mtpa, two trains) commenced production from its first train in October 2017. Production from its second train is expected in the first half of 2018.
- The remaining LNG development in Western Australia is the Prelude floating LNG project (single 3.6 mtpa train).
- By mid-2018, when development of all projects is scheduled to be completed, Western Australia’s total LNG export capacity will be 49.9 mtpa.
In 2016, global LNG trade was 263.6 million tonnes, with the five largest importers – Japan, South Korea, China, India and Taiwan – located in Asia. There are also emerging LNG markets in Pakistan and Southeast Asia.

- Asia accounted for 73 per cent of global LNG imports in 2016.
  - Japan and South Korea together accounted for 45 per cent of LNG imports in 2016.
  - China and India together accounted for 18 per cent of LNG imports in 2016, with this proportion expected to grow as both countries increase their gas demand.
- Europe (15 per cent), the Middle East (7 per cent) and the Americas (6 per cent) made up the balance of LNG imports.

Western Australia’s LNG projects are located relatively close to the world’s biggest LNG importers in Asia, comparing favourably to the shipping distances from Qatar (with the exception of India).

- The shipping distance from Western Australia to Japan is 3,400 nautical miles or about 8 days travel, with similar shipping durations to South Korea, China, Taiwan and India.
- The expansion of the Panama Canal, completed in late-June 2016, means that most LNG tankers can now pass through, providing a shorter trade route for LNG exports from the USA to Asian customers. However, shipping to Asian customers from the US Gulf Coast still takes more than twice the time of shipping from Western Australia.

LNG sales in Asia are made mostly through long-term contracts. According to the International Group of LNG importers, 22 per cent of Asia’s LNG imports in 2016 were through spot and short-term contracts, with the remaining 78 per cent through long-term contracts.

- Most long-term LNG contracts for supply to Asia have prices linked to the oil price, so LNG prices in Asia generally move with the oil price (with a timing lag of a few months).
- This differs from gas prices in the USA, which respond to the regional gas market. In the past, this has led to a large gap between Asian LNG prices and USA gas prices: higher oil prices led to higher LNG prices in Asia, while gas prices fell in the USA as more shale gas supply was brought to market. The large fall in the oil price in late 2014 reduced this gap.
- The average price of LNG to Japan in November 2017 was US$7.8 per mmBtu, up 10 per cent on November 2016.
- The average price of LNG to Japan in 2016-17 was US$7.5 per mmBtu, down 7 per cent on 2015-16.

### Regional LNG imports: 2016

Source: International Group of LNG Importers (GIIGNL).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>Korea</th>
<th>Taiwan</th>
<th>India</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>20.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LNG transport: international shipping duration (days)

Note – days shipping is based on a vessel at maximum speeds of 19.5 knots.

Source: Shipstream; International Group of LNG Importers (GIIGNL).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From:</th>
<th>To:</th>
<th>Japan (Tokyo)</th>
<th>China (Shanghai)</th>
<th>Korea (Incheon)</th>
<th>Taiwan (Yung-an)</th>
<th>India (Gujarat)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia (West coast)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia (East coast)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA (Gulf coast)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East Asia (Singapore)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia (Sakhalin)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Regional LNG/pipeline gas prices

The volume of Western Australia’s LNG sales rose 37 per cent to 28.7 million tonnes in 2016-17. The increase in volume was mainly due to the ramp-up in production from the Gorgon LNG project during 2016-17.

The value of Western Australia’s LNG sales rose 18 per cent to $12.7 billion in 2016-17.

LNG accounted for 12 per cent of Western Australia’s total commodity sales ($105 billion) in 2016-17, down from a peak of 14 per cent in 2014.

LNG accounted for 66 per cent of Western Australia’s total petroleum sales ($19.1 billion) in 2016-17, up from 59 per cent in 2015-16.

Woodside accounted for 25 per cent of Western Australia’s LNG production in 2016-17. Woodside has a one sixth share of the North West Shelf project and a 90 per cent share of LNG production in 2016-17. Woodside accounted for 25 per cent of Western Australia’s LNG production in 2016-17.

Chevron accounted for 20 per cent of Western Australia’s LNG production in 2016-17. Chevron is the operator and largest stakeholder in the Gorgon and Wheatstone projects and its share of Western Australia’s LNG production will increase as these projects ramp-up production.

As the global LNG market moves towards over-supply and more buyers in new markets emerge, LNG producers are shifting to a ‘portfolio’ sales strategy in which companies sell their equity share of a project’s production. Aggregating sales volumes from different LNG projects allows sellers to maximise spot and short-term market opportunities.

Japan was Western Australia’s first LNG customer in 1989 and it remains the State’s largest customer.

Western Australia became the first exporter of LNG to China in 2006 via the North West Shelf’s sales contract with Guangdong Dapeng LNG.

In the twelve months to November 2017, Western Australia exported 31.6 million tonnes of LNG. Of Western Australia’s total LNG sales in this period:
- Japan accounted for 64 per cent;
- China accounted for 18 per cent;
- South Korea accounted for 6 per cent;
- India 3.6 per cent; and Taiwan 3.4 per cent.

Japan is likely to remain Western Australia’s largest LNG customer, however new contracts in China, South Korea and India and growing portfolio sales will diversify the State’s LNG markets.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Capex (A$b)</th>
<th>Capacity (mtpa)</th>
<th>Start-up</th>
<th>Other Project Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>North West Shelf</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BHP (16.67%)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BP (16.67%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chevron (16.67%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MIMI (16.67%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shell (16.67%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1989</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Xena 1 field commenced production in June 2015. Woodside is considering a mid-scale expansion of the Pluto LNG plant by either debottlenecking the existing plant or constructing a smaller LNG train.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>North Rankin Platform B will recover about 5 trillion cubic feet of gas from the North Rankin and Perseus fields.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tokyo Gas (5%)</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kansai Electric (5%)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prelude</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLNG vessel</td>
<td></td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Sep 2018</td>
<td>The floating LNG vessel arrived at the Prelude gas field in the Browse Basin in July 2017. Start-up is expected in the third quarter of 2018.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In addition to LNG, Prelude will produce 1.3 mtpa of condensate and 0.4 mtpa of LPG. The vessel will operate at the Prelude gas field for 25 years.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>FEED commenced in December 2014 with FID made in December 2015. Phase 2 will recover 1.7 trillion cubic feet of gas to maintain North West Shelf output, via subsea tie-back to the existing Goodwyn A platform.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Target fields in Phase 2 include Dockrell, Kreat, Lady Nora, Pemberton and Sculptor-Rankin.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capex = capital expenditure; mtpa = million tonnes per annum (export capacity addition); FEED = front-end engineering and design; FID = final investment decision; FLNG = Floating LNG; n/a = not applicable.

Note: 1 Western Australia has an estimated 50 per cent share of the project’s total capital expenditure of A$38.0 billion.

Western Australia’s natural gas reserves and resources

- Western Australia’s current and committed LNG projects source gas from offshore in the Carnarvon and Browse basins.
- The State’s domestic gas needs are supplied through production facilities located in the Carnarvon and Perth basins.
- The State also has onshore shale and tight gas resources in the Canning, Carnarvon and Perth basins. While onshore drilling and exploration is occurring, it is in its early stages.

Map of WA’s gas reserves and resources (trillion cubic feet) – as at November 2017

LEGEND
- Gas pipeline
- Gas basin
  - Conventional gas reserves [2P]
  - Conventional gas resources [2C]
  - Shale gas resources [RRR]
  - Tight gas resources [GJ/IP]

Reserves are categorised by probability or likelihood of recovery

2P = reserves that are proved (90%) + probable (50%).

Contingent resources are known and recoverable, however are considered sub-economic at this point in time

2C = contingent resources.

Resources can be assessed against the geologic and technical likelihood of success plus the amount that is technically able to be produced now

RRR = DMIRS’s current, best estimates of risked, recoverable resources.

GJ/IP = Gas-initially-in-place, referring to the estimated total amount of gas contained within the basin, including volumes that are deemed sub-economic, and which may never be recovered

Reserves and resources for the Bonaparte Basin show the net entitlement to Australia.

Note – map is indicative only. For more information on reserves and resources classification, see the Society of Petroleum Engineers’ Petroleum Resources Management System.

Sources: EnergyQuest EnergyQuarterly; and WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.