

Key Findings

Western Australia is home to five current and two proposed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities. The 'Runaway Train' report by CCWA and Clean State is the first time the full impact of greenhouse gas emissions from the WA LNG industry has been investigated. Here's our top ten findings.

October 2019



1 LNG production in WA is the fastest growing pollution source in Australia and has been the primary driver of recent national emissions growth.

2 Gas is WA's biggest polluter, dwarfing all other pollution sources. Emissions from five current WA LNG facilities make up 36% of WA's total annual emissions at full production. If the proposed Woodside Burrup Hub expansion is approved, emissions from WA's current and proposed LNG facilities will jump to almost half (47%) of WA's annual emissions.

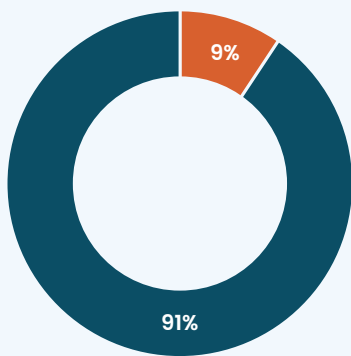
3 Carbon pollution from WA's LNG production is breaching the Paris Agreement. Under the Paris Agreement, Australia committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 26–28% from 2005 levels by 2030. But emissions from current and proposed WA LNG projects will result in a 61% increase on WA's 2005 emissions baseline. This places Australia's modest Paris commitments in jeopardy and forces everyone else to compensate for WA's runaway growth in LNG pollution.

4 Chevron and Woodside are responsible for almost all of this pollution and there are no effective controls on their operations.

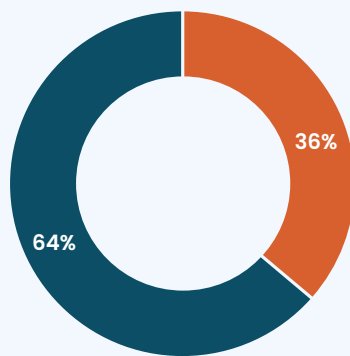
Chevron and Woodside are in Australia's Top 10 carbon polluters, and current controls on carbon pollution from WA LNG projects have been found to be completely inadequate. Where conditions have been imposed, they vary, and have either not been met or the license condition has been removed.

5 WA's LNG facilities emit more carbon pollution than WA's oldest, dirtiest coal fired power stations.

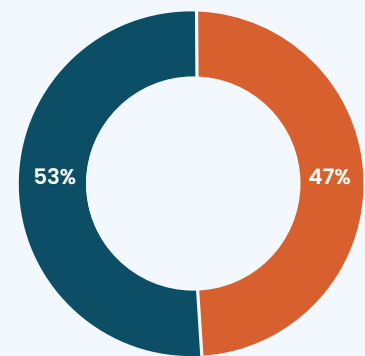
WA's LNG industry is the largest carbon polluter in WA. The emissions from five currently operating facilities (32 million tonnes per year) are 2.5 times higher than the emissions from WA's three coal-fired power stations.



2005 Emissions Profile (WA)



Current Emissions Profile (WA)



Proposed Emissions Profile (WA)

Figure 1: Proportion of WA's total annual emissions from LNG mining and export

● WA LNG ● All Other Emissions

Key Findings continued

6 Pollution from WA's LNG facilities is as high as the annual emissions from entire countries!

Greenhouse gas emissions from WA's current and proposed LNG facilities combined is as large as the total annual emissions of countries such as Ireland, Switzerland, Sweden, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Denmark.

7 WA LNG pollution is undermining Australia's national efforts to reduce emissions.

Annual carbon pollution from WA's five LNG plants (32Mt) is almost five times greater than the carbon savings made by every single solar panel across 2.1 million Australian rooftops every year.

8 Offsetting LNG pollution in WA would create 4000 jobs.

A study commissioned by CCWA found that if Chevron, Shell and Woodside were required to offset their annual emissions in WA it would create around 4,000 new jobs. These new jobs would be mostly in the regions and would include tree plantings, large scale renewable energy, rangeland regeneration and savannah burning activities.

9 There is no such thing as 'clean gas'.

Elevated methane levels negate any 'advantage' over coal, and a major international review of LNG infrastructure found that the threat to the climate from LNG is 'as large or larger than coal'. New gas projects will lock in another 40-60 years of carbon pollution and are at high risk of becoming stranded assets. Furthermore, large-scale, low cost renewables can now displace both coal and gas. In order to comply with the IPCC and Paris Agreement goals gas needs to reduce, not increase.

10 The runaway emissions of WA's LNG industry have gone largely unnoticed in Australia's national debate on climate change, but they can no longer be ignored.



These findings strengthen the case for immediate action to update Western Australia's policy approach for assessing and controlling pollution by WA's LNG industry. They also affirm the need to adopt a climate change policy that is in line with the science and our international commitments made to keep global warming within 1.5 degrees.

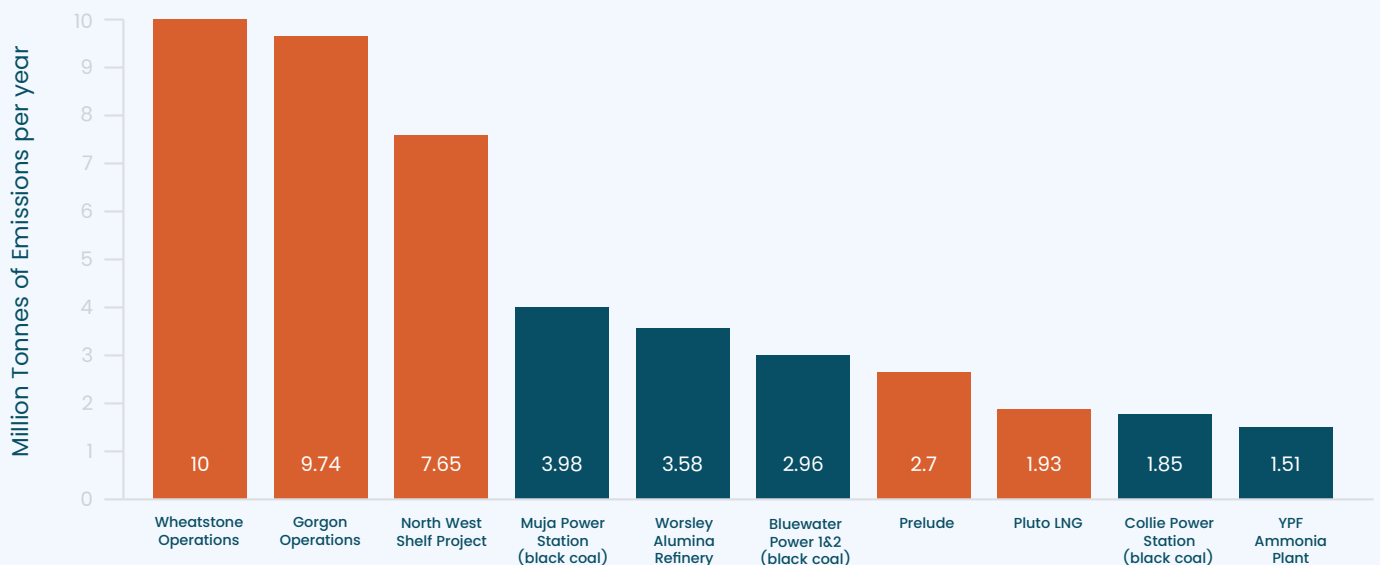


Figure 2: Western Australia's ten biggest CO₂ emitters