

Media Release

23 January 2008

PNG LNG Project Environmental Impact Statement Submitted

PORT MORESBY – Esso Highlands Limited, an Exxon Mobil Corporation subsidiary, (ExxonMobil) as Operator of the PNG LNG Project, today announced that the Project has formally submitted its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the PNG Department of Environment and Conservation.

The EIS which comprises more than six thousand pages and draws upon 26 supporting studies took nearly two years to complete with planning commencing in April 2007 and extensive field studies and data collection being undertaken between November 2007 and July 2008.

The Project conducted two EIS-specific project-area public consultation roadshows in November 2007 and 2008. These roadshows each visited 35 villages throughout the 700 km project area and were attended by more than 7,500 community members in total. Additional consultation and surveys were also conducted during data collection for supporting studies, including the Social Impact Assessment.

Following receipt and initial review of the EIS the Department of Environment and Conservation plans to conduct a further public consultation roadshow in early/mid 2009 to collect community feedback.

The EIS has been conducted to identify any potential impacts on the environment and the people of the project area and to assist the Project to implement measures to mitigate those impacts.

The social, cultural and economic objectives of the PNG LNG Project are to deliver a project that has the potential to benefit local and wider communities with minimal impact on the environment, by:

- Recognising local amenity, values and culture of people directly affected by the project.
- Managing environmental and social impacts.
- Contributing to the state's economy and human wellbeing.

“We are very pleased to have completed and submitted the Project EIS. This represents an important milestone for the Project and is the result of many months of detailed research and data collection by an international team of scientists” said Mr Peter Graham, Venture Manager, PNG LNG Project.

“The Project intends to mitigate impacts on the environment and on affected communities by planning, building and operating the project according to good industry practice, applicable government requirements, and international environmental standards” said Mr Graham.

Hard copies of the EIS will be distributed to relevant Provincial Governments for public review in early February and it will be available on the Project's website at www.pnglng.com. The EIS will also be available for review at the Department of Environment and Conservation office, Port Moresby.

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