

## Context Summary

The Pluto LNG Project Offset “d” program includes the requirement to review, assess and summarise historical data relevant to the management of the proposed Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and Regnard Marine Management Area. Large amounts of marine environmental and social data have been collected by a range of agencies and industry in this area since the late 1970s. This project will collate and review this data to assist in providing a comprehensive understanding of the historical condition of biophysical assets and social values of the area.

## Aims Summary

- Identify, assess and collate existing biophysical and social datasets relevant to values listed in the indicative management plan for the Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and Cape Preston Marine Management Area.
- Construct an historical time-series of relevance to the conservation of the marine biodiversity and the management of human activity.
- Ensure data is summarised, archived, made accessible and broadly presented to government, industry and the local community.
- Assist the design and implementation of Pluto LNG Project Offset “d” projects (ii), (iii) and (iv).

## Progress

- An assessment of historical data relevant to the management of the proposed Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and Regnard Marine Management Area was completed, with a Pluto Offset ‘d’ Project ‘i’ final report lodged in November 2104.
- This report included information on over 800 datasets across 14 ecological values.
- The final project report describes a number of key project achievements in addition to historical description of marine asset and related pressure information, including i) a guideline for context setting, prospecting, data mining and reporting of historical datasets, ii) the design and implementation of innovative information management solutions for information storage and distribution, and iii) delivery of information to facilitate and enable the development of the latter three Pluto offset ‘d’ projects.

## Management implications

Understanding the effectiveness of current and past management relies on an ability to be able to detect significant change. Access to historical data provides such an opportunity, with improved understanding of historical trends for environmental assets and social values helping to inform time-series baselines for government, industry and the local community. Making historical trends in the condition of marine assets and human use of this region visible to today’s managers, recognises and capitalises on past investment in science, helping to speed up the process of identifying existing and potential issues (and risks) where management action may need to be targeted.

## Future directions

- Pluto Offset ‘d’ Project ‘i’ is now closed.
- However, the Western Australian Marine Monitoring Program (SPP 2012-008) and other Pluto LNG Project Offset “d” projects will continue negotiations with data custodians to acquire outstanding high-priority datasets identified by the project to assist on-going monitoring and research initiatives.