



Chevron Protects Nature on Barrow Island

Harry Butler, Naturalist

Barrow Island is unlike anything else you have ever seen. It is the most remarkable place. Particularly because it's a very large piece of Australia that has not been subject to the influences of the pioneers, the colonists, the farmers, the pastoralists, the city builders. In 1910, a hundred years ago, Barrow Island was made a Class A reserve to protect fauna and flora, this was because there were so many sea turtles nesting on the island, and they're still there today, same numbers.

On Barrow, there are at least 24 endemic species, that is species that are only found on Barrow Island but there's many more that are rare or endangered or at risk where they live in Australia, or they vanished from that part of Australia, and it only takes one small incident to change an environment which will affect the species to the point where it becomes extinct. Takes very, very little.

Since 1963 we produced over 300 million barrels of oil, we've had many people working there, we've built roads and air strips. As I said it only takes one incident to destroy a species but we have had no incidents, we've lost no species, no plants, no animals, no ecosystems. It's not luck, it's not by accident, it's because we planned it, because we managed the island in such a way that everything was cared for. We looked after species, we looked after ecosystems, we looked after processes as well as looking out for workforce and people. Safety applies to everything.

Now that Chevron has come aboard with Gorgon we have a new problem; many people coming in to construct Gorgon and so to do that we made further plans which have taken the original plans, embellished them and now we have the highest level of government approval, set the best in the world planning and management of Barrow Island. That model is copied all around the world, it's recognized as of immense global value but for ordinary people, Barrow is a place where you can see what Australia was like before the coming of white man—a place where the animals and plants still coexist with nature. As I said, it's not an accident, it's a legacy of the 100,000 people who worked and lived on Barrow over the last 45 years. They've given us a heritage so Barrow is your heritage and it's worth saving.

It's up to you now.