



video transcript

partnering with the community onslow, western australia

human energy*

Voiceover

When Chevron and the Wheatstone Joint Venture Participants decided to build a liquefied natural gas project 12 kilometres west of Onslow, it brought a spotlight on the small remote town on the Pilbara Coast of Western Australia.

From the moment this final investment decision was made in late 2011, Onslow a town of around 700 people was destined for a journey of remarkable growth and investment.

Geoff Herbert

Former President, Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI)

With the Wheatstone Project, there's been huge changes in Onslow, business wise and community wise. From my point of view, I've welcomed it, I think it's been great for the town.

When I first came here 13 years ago, it was a very quiet little town, you would literally find tumbleweeds rolling down the street. Since that time, Onslow is probably one of the best placed communities in the North West to have a vibrant business community and job opportunities. It's a huge change and it's great.

Voiceover

For many years now, the Chevron-operated Wheatstone Project has been working with several organisations to deliver services, programs and events to help support and strengthen the local community.

School children singing

Voiceover

To support Onslow's only school which has just over one hundred students from kindergarten to Year 12, Wheatstone is funding additional specialist teaching staff.

Jacqueline Barry

Principal, Onslow School

The roles that are funded through the Chevron-operated Wheatstone Project, simply wouldn't be able to be put in place without their generous support.

Their focus will be on working with students as well as the classroom teachers to ensure that all of the needs of the students for literacy and numeracy are catered for. Also, to make sure that we're monitoring those students progress very closely, communicating that with parents as well, to make sure we are closing as many gaps as possible.

Our attendance is also improving, so we're now getting even more students who were starting to disengage from school, back at school. It's also working with those students to get them back on track. We also have new families

that have come to Onslow, and it is our role to also make sure that regardless of where we are located, that we are providing the best educational program possible for any student.

Voiceover

Since 2008, Wheatstone's community partner V Swans, has had staff permanently based in Onslow who deliver year-round programs for the kids and youth. Including in-school education programs, after school sport sessions, as well as a new youth drop-in centre – a fun, safe and positive place of their own to enjoy.

Their programs use sport as a tool to improve health, education and social outcomes, with their staff providing a vital mentoring role within the community.

Sharon Donnellan Regional Manager, V Swans

The V Swans philosophy around active education and bringing people together – the whole purpose for us is to build positive relationships with people that they can trust, that they can feel happy with, they can engage with and therefore bringing our passion of sport and active education to them.

Voiceover

The Wheatstone Project together with the Shire of Ashburton have formed a 'Working Together for Onslow' partnership, to bring events, concerts, school holiday programs, seniors events plus more, to help make Onslow a great place to live and work.

The Onslow Kids Kitchen Garden, also funded by Wheatstone, helps teach students how to grow and cook healthy food.

Bella Harding Coordinator, Onslow Kids Kitchen Garden

One of the great things about a garden, is that from gardening you can branch out into nutrition, science, there's also numeracy and literacy. There are so many avenues there for learning.

My favourite part about working with the kids is just watching their engagement with healthy food. I think if you give kids healthy food and tell them to like it, there's no real engagement. But watching kids who really didn't know what a capsicum was, and then watching them enjoy cooking and eating it after they've grown it, it just gives me such a sense of satisfaction, it's such an exciting program to be part of.

Voiceover

Chevron also continues to invest in Aboriginal Health, improving access to services by delivering several targeted programs in Onslow and the Pilbara region.

In partnership with Telethon Speech and Hearing, the Chevron Ear Health Program helps prevent middle ear disease. While a partnership with the Heart Foundation promotes lifestyle choices that improves heart health.

Lyn Dimer Aboriginal Health Manager, Heart Foundation

The program that we offer through the Pilbara Aboriginal Heart Health is that we are targeting people to make lifestyle changes. Lifestyle changes that will reduce their issue with getting heart disease, diabetes, any cancers. Also, we want to make the community healthy and well, not sick and unwell. And, it takes time to build up that relationship and have the rapport with the people, but we are gaining and making a difference gradually.

Voiceover

To help develop and grow local businesses, the Wheatstone Project continues to support the Onslow Chamber of Commerce as the exclusive principal partner, to support the vital role the chamber plays in increasing local business capacity and capability.

Chantelle King
CEO, Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI)

I believe that the Wheatstone Project has been a very positive outcome for Onslow town. It's grown the town, it's offered a lot more opportunities in Onslow that weren't here before, from business to community, individuals and families. There's a new demographic of people in town, which I think is really exciting. There is more and more services and facilities, and without the Wheatstone Project these people and these businesses wouldn't exist in Onslow.

Voiceover

The Wheatstone Project committed \$250 million to upgrade Onslow's infrastructure, including construction of a new hospital, upgrade of the airport, roads and utilities, and construction of new houses for vital government workers such as teachers, nurses and police.

Chantelle King
CEO, Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI)

The town is definitely growing and its offering more services that people think they need and want to live in a town and stay longer.

Geoff Herbert
Former President, Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI)

By having all these new facilities, our town now is a mecca for investment for other companies to come here, because we have new power, we have new water, we have a hospital, we have better roads. It is now a place that will continue to grow, even though it won't just be Chevron, we're going to be a multi-faceted business community.

Voiceover

Having a megaproject like Wheatstone on its doorstep, has changed this small remote town in many ways. But through partnership, collaboration and a shared vision, Chevron and the local community will continue to work together to make sure Onslow remains a vibrant and sustainable regional community for decades to come.

Sharon Donnellan
Regional Manager, V Swans

Having the Chevron people in town, having them connecting with the youth, with the community, means that people see that that's a positive outcome, it's not just this big company that's coming along, its actually someone that believes in the community and gives back to the community.

Chantelle King
CEO, Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI)

The vibe in Onslow is really exciting, we're starting to get people talking about Onslow all over the state and all over the country, and before it was this sleepy little fishing town that nobody knew existed and now we're on the map! I think that's really exciting.

Dawn McAullay
Onslow community member

Hopefully it'll bring work for my grandkids and my great grand-kids, in the future.