

Mastering  
Complex Projects

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# Australian Lessons for Developing Large and Complex Projects

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# Presentation Outline

- Australia's poor large project performance
  - 3 examples
  - Causes
- Changed market conditions
- Need for new approaches
  - Learn the lessons
  - Use new technique for assessing project and asset
- Conclusions and Recommendations

# Australia's Poor Project Performance

- IPA (2009): 74% of completed large/complex projects they had assessed had been failures
- PwC (2012): only 2.5% of companies delivered their projects to time & cost targets; of rest, 92% of failures due to management, 8% technical
- E&Y (2014) show this is a global problem:
  - 53% (best Europe) to 89% (worst Middle East) cost overrun (by average 51% best in Nth Am to 102% worst in Latin America);
  - 55% (best Nth Am) to 87% (worst Middle East) schedule overrun.
- **Australia not worst but far from best**

# PROJECT EXAMPLES

Three Examples of Large and Complex Australian Projects which failed to meet their time and cost targets



# BHP Hot Briquetted Iron (1995-99) - 1

- HBI desired by BHP Iron Ore to expand flat products in booming SE Asian markets; inadequate process testing
- Project “self-executed” by Operator BHPIO - promised Board threshold 15% RoI by cutting \$400m capex
- Poor project management & controls resulted in 1 year delay & 50% cost overrun (\$1.6b to \$2.4b)
- 97/98 Asian Financial Crisis occurred during construction
- FINMET Process killed maintenance workers
- Plant was shut down then razed to the ground

# BHP Hot Briquetted Iron (1995-99) - 2

- Main picture shows HBI process plant under construction; right upper shows explosive demolition, lower right compacting scrap



# BHPB Nickel Projects (2004-08) - 1

- BHP acquired Nickel assets with WMC, wanted to be Tier 1 producer
- Limited life lateritic ore deposit near Ravensthorpe in SW WA was site for mine and novel process concentrator
- 30 year old Yabulu Nickel Refinery in QLD came with Billiton. BHPB decided to double size to process concentrates from Ravensthorpe
- In Mar 04 both projects were to cost US\$1.4b and deliver in Q3 07
- Many changes during construction, major time & cost overruns
- Global Financial Crisis occurred during delayed startup plunging nickel price from record \$54k/t in Q1 07 to <\$10k/t in Q2 09
- Both facilities shut in Jan 09 , sold with write-downs of US\$3.6b

# BHPB Nickel Projects (2004-08) - 2

- Top left: Ravensthorpe Concentrator under construction;  
Bottom right: Yabulu Nickel Refinery





# Woodside Pluto Project (2007-12) - 1

- Woodside (WPL) found 4.5TCF Pluto gas fields in 2005 and at FID in Jul 07 committed to a single 4.3 MTPA LNG plant on Burrup Peninsula
- Pluto FEED was only 9 months, to get LNG to market asap
- First Cargo was forecast to occur in Oct 10, just 39 months after FID
- EPCM contract formed with JV FWWP, then finishing NWS Train 5
- Complexity & scale of global project for a stretched Australian market resulted in onshore engineering, logistics and quality problems
- Late engineering & procurement delayed materials for modules resulting in carryover work. Poor quality greatly increased site work
- Increased sitework and delay caused WPL to introduce “motelling” to increase available accommodation for construction workforce by 25%

# Woodside Pluto Project (2007-12) - 2

- Modules being unloaded from special “marine low loader” vessel



# Woodside Pluto Project (2007-12) - 3

- Change in accommodation conditions caused protracted industrial action in early 2010
- Legislation of Fair Work Act in Jul 2009 substantially increased union rights and enabled extended site stoppages through 2010 to August
- Delays rendered onshore project schedule increasingly unattainable, but a countdown calendar had been adopted by the project, causing reluctance to rebaseline
- Offshore labour costs rose 184% from 2005 to 2011 to >6.6 times Australian Average Weekly Earnings, increasing offshore costs
- Offshore scope was otherwise well managed and executed in a timely way by an experienced Woodside Owners Team

# Woodside Pluto Project (2007-12) - 4

- View of Pluto onshore construction on Burrup Peninsula



- First Cargo departed in May 2012, 58 months after FID at a project cost of about \$15b, 25% more than the original estimate of \$12b

# Causes of Australia's Poor Performance

- Loss of project personnel from late 1980s to early 2000s
- Impatience of project owners to get into rising market
- Poor grasp by owners of needs to define and deliver projects
- Increased complexity, project stress due to modular design
- “Tipping into chaos” of many projects due to complexity, design changes and other stressors (Hollmann, 2014)
- Rising demand drives labour rates up, productivity down
- Changes to IR laws swung pendulum too far in favour of unions

# Changed Market Conditions

- Boom conditions in Australia of 2003-2012 gone, due to:
  - Appreciation of A\$ compared with long term average due to improved Terms of Trade (Value of Exports/Imports)
  - Increase in supply of commodities - principally iron ore, coal, LNG)
  - Reduction in demand by China
    - cooling of growth, credit,
    - maturing of economy from export & infrastructure to services and
    - environmental restrictions on imported coal quality
- So there is a clear need for new approaches to planning and delivering complex projects in the energy and resources sectors

# NEED FOR NEW APPROACHES - 1

Learn the lessons of the last 20 years:

- Thoroughly define scope
- Understand investment risks of asset as well as project
- Ensure project specialists assess investment proposal for owner
- Never allow an operating organisation to manage a complex project
- Rethink project delivery strategy to integrate owner and contractor more effectively
- Ensure ample time contingency for procurement & completion of modules
- Drive for higher productivity
- Develop fair but firm industrial relations laws
- Engage specialists with good track record to develop and execute project
- Recruit well and thoroughly train the team to operate the asset
- Retain and release Unallocated Contingency and if necessary, Management Reserve to guide and motivate the project team

# NEED FOR NEW APPROACHES - 2

Extend Integrated Cost & Schedule Risk Analysis  
to full Project and Asset Lifecycle –  
Integrated Costs, Schedule & Revenue  
Risk Analysis (IRRA)





# Include full project and asset lifecycle

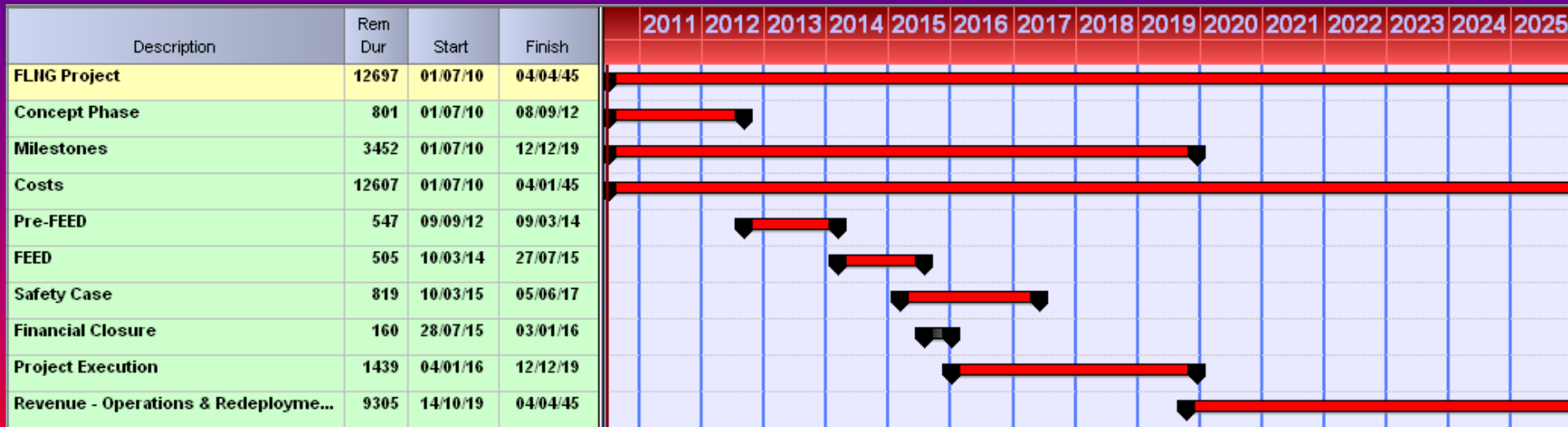
- Integrated Cost & Schedule Risk Analysis (IRA) does not risk-assess a major part of the Total Cost Management framework: the Asset being created by the project to realise benefits, usually including target financial returns
- If IRA is extended to the operation of the Asset through its economic life including Asset Closure, risk analysis can be broadened to include:
  - Opex uncertainties and risks
  - Revenue uncertainties and risks
- Modeling must be capable of representing the full range of uncertainties and risk factors including costs of borrowing and varying DCF rates

# Integrated Costs, Schedule & Revenue Risk Analysis (IRRA)

- We have developed a Floating LNG project model of this extended IRA methodology: Integrated Costs, Schedule & Revenue Risk Analysis – IRRA
- A summarised representation of an FLNG Project and the first few years of production of the asset are shown on the following screen
- Phases from concept to asset closure are included

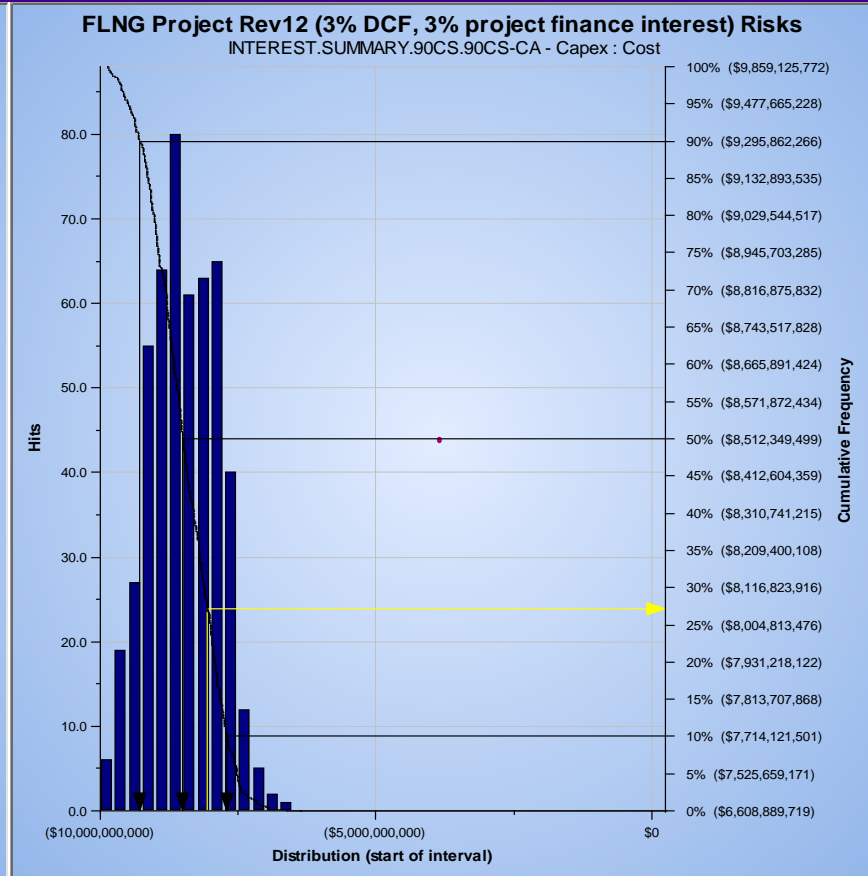
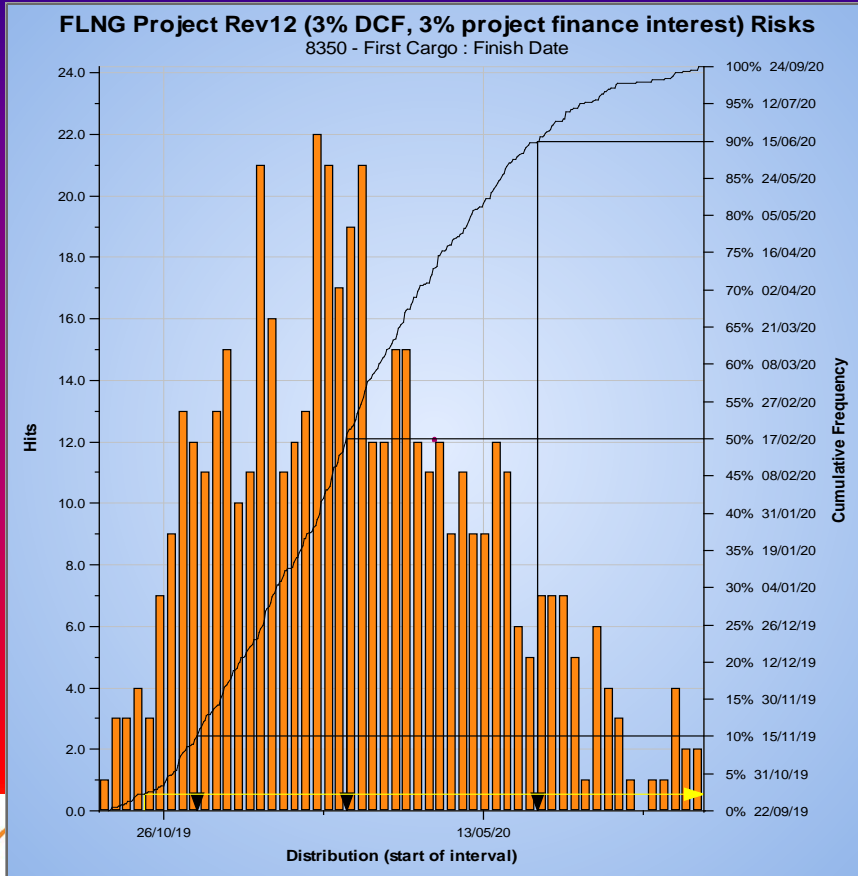
# IRRA Model of an FLNG Project

- Key dependencies from engineering to procurement, fabrication, installation are included in the ~200 task model



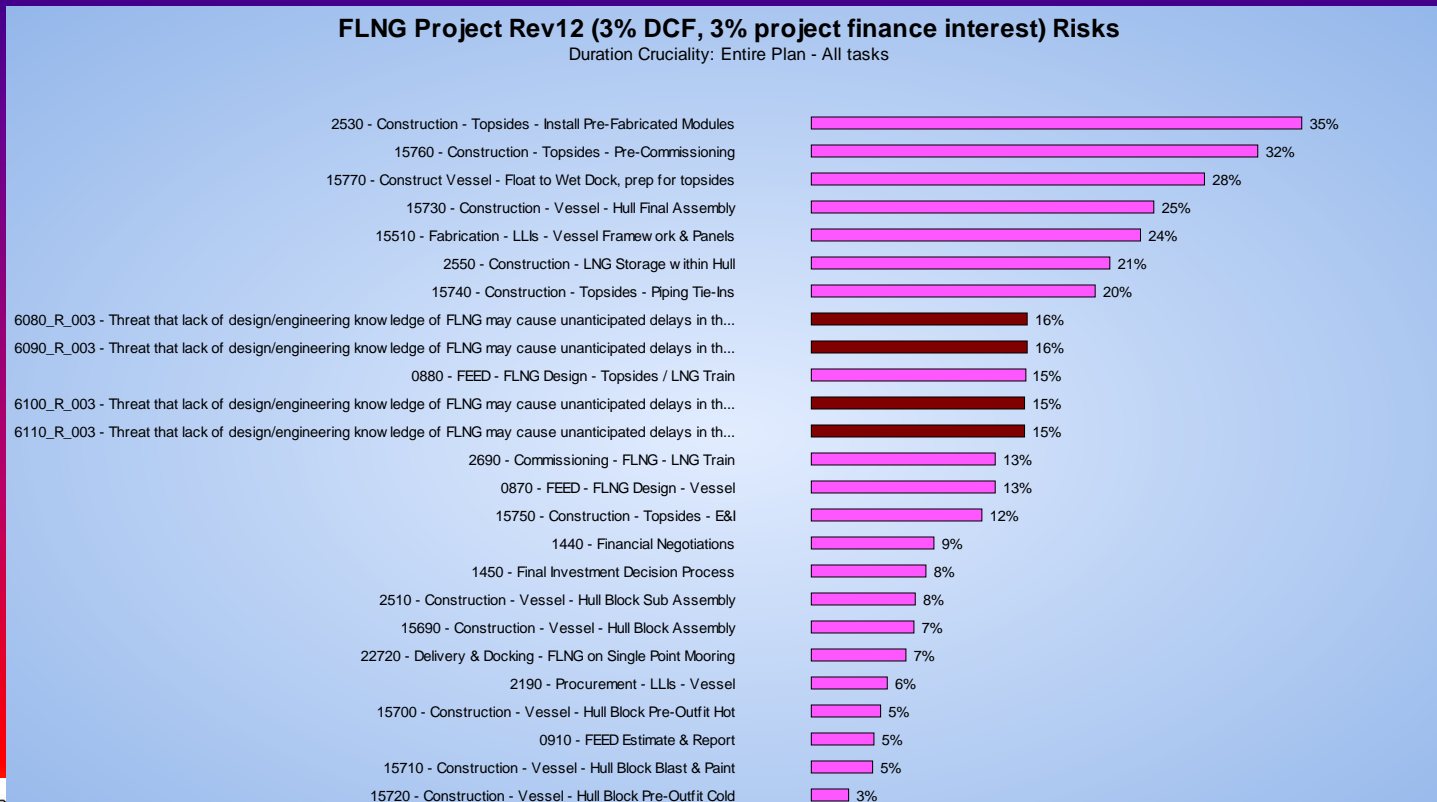
# Probabilistic Project Forecasts

- The usual forecasts of time and cost outcomes can be made, enabling contingencies to be assessed, taking into account all known uncertainties, risk events and factors



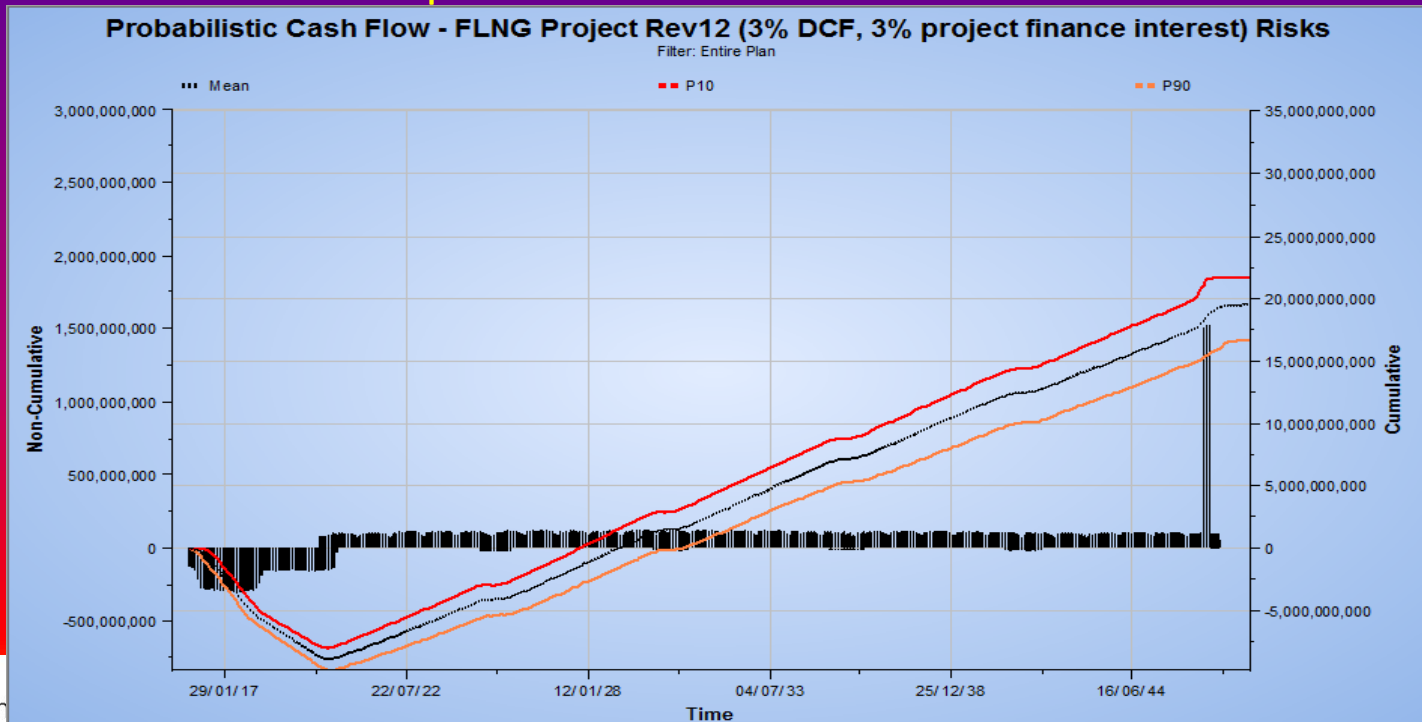
# Drivers of Project Outcomes

- As importantly, the drivers of project timing and cost can be identified and ranked to prioritise efforts to optimise risk



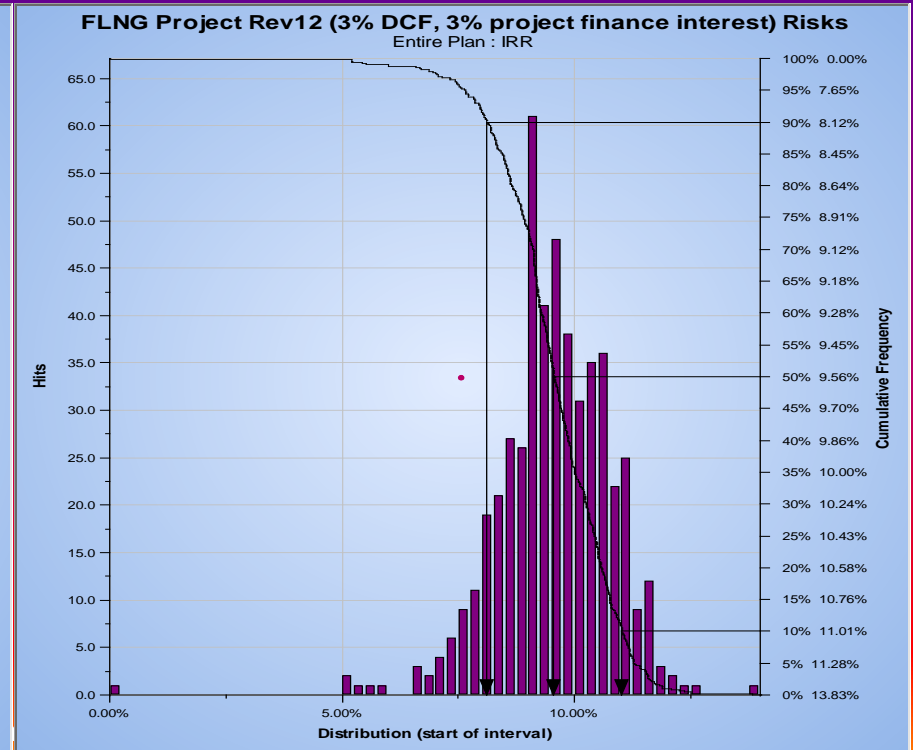
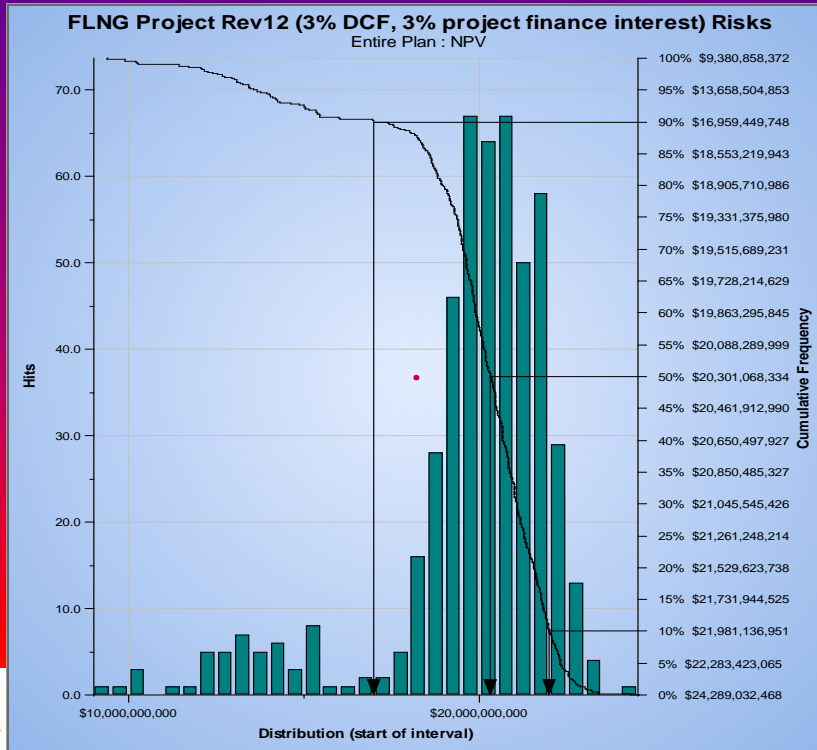
# Add in Whole of Asset Life Risk

- FLNG projects involve tradeoffs between Capex and Opex
- But such choices also have different risk profiles
- By incorporating Revenue and Opex uncertainties and risks, we can model the financial riskiness of each option



# Asset Probabilistic NPVs and IRRs

- Each FLNG option can be modelled with all risk factors and risk events as well as capex and opex uncertainties
- When revenue uncertainty and risks are also modeled, the full riskiness of the investment decision can be assessed



# Conclusions and Recommendations

- Australia's relative advantages have largely disappeared
- Need to reduce risk to access Superannuation Funds
- Need for training for senior project managers and directors
- Need for better project management skills
- Need for Balance in Industrial Relations Law
- Plan Projects and Investments thoroughly before Execution



# QUESTIONS?

Anyone who wants an electronic copy of the presentation should give me their business card or email me at:  
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