

# CASE STUDY

## GWA FLARE TIP CHANGE

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# VERTECH

## INTRODUCTION

The Goodwyn Alpha Life Extension project aimed to prolong the operational lifespan of the Goodwyn platform and its supporting infrastructure by 12–18 years from 2025. A critical aspect of this initiative was the replacement of the Goodwyn Alpha Flare Tip—a vital safety feature for the controlled disposal of gas and liquid hydrocarbons—whose replacement was essential for the project’s success.

## PROCESS

To undertake this high-risk task, Vertech combined expertise in IRATA rope access, rigging, mechanical works, and protective coatings to replace the flare tip situated 160 metres above sea level. A custom-designed flare tip handling package was utilised to manage the removal and installation process. Vertech also carried out remediation works on the flare tower within a tight shutdown window, delivering services that included constructability planning, safe work methodologies, risk engineering, rescue strategy testing, rigging plans, and NDT and mechanical competency assessments.

The team mitigated the risk of radiant heat exposure during pre-shutdown access by implementing tailored equipment solutions, safe access methods, and a detailed emergency escape plan. Additional services provided included the removal and replacement of navigational aids, structural repairs, visual inspections, coatings development, and adhesion testing.

## OUTCOME

Once on-site, the Vertech team swiftly commissioned and tested the flare tip handling package, launching a proactive ‘make safe’ campaign to remove any potential dropped object hazards. The flare tip was then successfully replaced using heavy rigging equipment while adhering to all required torque and tension specifications. Despite complex engineering and environmental challenges, the project was completed safely, ahead of schedule, and under budget—demonstrating Vertech’s capability to deliver high-stakes offshore work with precision.

