

CASE STUDY

GWA DERRICK DECOMMISSIONING

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VERTECH

INTRODUCTION

Commissioned in 1995, the Goodwyn Alpha is an offshore platform producing dry gas and condensate, located 135km northwest of Karratha. Standing 290 metres tall and weighing 55,000 tonnes, it delivers 36,000 tonnes of gas and 11,000 tonnes of condensate. Following updated safety standards introduced after Hurricane Katrina, sections of the Derrick were designated for deconstruction and decommissioning.

PROCESS

Vertech supported the client from the planning phase, offering specialist consultation in rope access heavy rigging. Due to the complexity of operating near a live flare, safety was the top priority. Rope access teams constructed isolated scaffold work platforms without the need for traditional scaffold towers, reducing offshore material load, manual handling risks, and dropped object potential. This flexible access enabled the safe use of heavy mechanical tools at various elevations across the Derrick.

OUTCOME

Vertech successfully removed 120 tonnes of steel while ensuring uninterrupted production on the facility. Their multi-skilled team—spanning mechanical, electrical, rigging, scaffolding, and management—was essential to maintaining operational integrity. Using a carefully managed stick deconstruction approach, each lift was executed with precision. The project reinforced Vertech's strength in high-risk offshore decommissioning, delivering safe, efficient results under challenging conditions.

