



#### REFLECTIONS OF A DEPARTING CEO: THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIA'S LNG INDUSTRY

Don Voelte, Managing Director and CEO of Woodside Energy Limited

Don Voelte, Managing Director and CEO of Woodside joined the company in 2004 and has 36 years experience in the global oil and gas industry. After seven years as head of Woodside, Voelte is getting ready to leave Australia to return to the US. His biggest achievement at Woodside has been driving the development of the Pluto LNG project, which is expected to begin production later this year, only six-and-a-half years after its discovery. Voelte also laid the foundations for other expansion projects, including Browse LNG. Prior to joining Woodside, Voelte was Director, President and CEO of Chroma Energy based in Houston. He currently serves on the board of the University of Western Australia Business School and is a Non Executive Director of the West Australian Newspapers Holdings Limited. He's a member of the SPE, the ASCE, the Chi Epsilon Honor Society, a Foreign Fellow to ATSE (FTSE) and a Fellow to the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD). He is a trustee of the University of Nebraska Foundation and was awarded the University of Nebraska Engineering Alumni of Year in 2002.

#### Abstract

The past decade has seen a transformation in the Australian LNG industry. While the North West Shelf has been producing a reliable supply of LNG to customers around the world for more than 20 years, the game is now changing.

Increasing global demand for cleaner energy has resulted in natural gas being widely recognised as a transition fuel to a lower carbon world. As Asia leads the way in the global economic recovery, the region is searching for new energy sources and Australia's history of reliable and stable supply makes us an attractive LNG supplier.

This demand, teamed with rising energy prices has resulted in the proliferation of new Australian LNG projects either in development or on the drawing board. Gas resources that were once considered uneconomical to develop are now commercially viable.

While the economics of these projects might stack up, it will be a case of survival of the fittest when faced with challenges including skills shortages and cost increases.

Given these challenges, consolidating LNG projects into hubs or multi-user precincts makes economic sense. It provides the ability for resource owners to share infrastructure and facilities, and invest in sustainable community development.

\*Depicts presenter if not lead author.

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Beyond economic challenges, the Montara and Macondo incidents will have a long-term impact on the global oil and gas industry. Operators will have to prove they have the capability and credentials to safely operate offshore.

How the industry responds to these issues will determine Australia's ability to become one of the world's leading LNG producers.