

# Woodside's Admirer Takes Over CEO Reins



*New Woodside Petroleum CEO Peter Coleman.*

**P**eter Coleman, is the new heir of the Woodside Petroleum throne taking over from Don Voelte.

Coleman formerly with ExxonMobil for 27 years, started his Woodside journey on 30 May.

The 51-year-old has worked in Australia, Africa, Asia and the US and has about 30 years of industry experience.

The Victorian-born industry has been vital in professional running Exxon's oil and gas developments globally, including the US oil major's \$16 B LNG project in Papua New Guinea. Coleman also completed a stint as production manager at the Esso natural gas plant at Longford which suffered a major explosion in 1998.

His career began at Exxon and BHP's Bass Strait operations. He left his job as Exxon's Houston-based vice-president for development, where he was responsible for leading development and project work worth more than \$US40 B (\$AUD37.8 B).

Coleman said he has long admired Woodside and was excited to be joining the company.

"I have followed Woodside closely since beginning my career in the oil and gas industry nearly three decades ago, and I relish the opportunity to lead this great Australian company", Coleman said.

He believes Woodside has an impressive portfolio of Australian oil and gas assets right across the development timeframe and he said looked forward to growing the company as successfully as his predecessors, and in a manner which continues to provide superior returns to shareholders.

"I am committed to maintaining the excellent reputation Woodside has in the industry for safe, reliable and responsible operations," Coleman said. "This is a testament to the quality of Woodside's people, and the strong relationships the company has with the communities, customers, governments and partners with which it works."

Woodside Chairman Michael Chaney said Coleman's appointment followed an extensive recruitment process which considered a strong field of internal and external candidates. "The Board is delighted that Coleman has agreed to lead Woodside through the company's next phase of growth", Mr Chaney said. "Mr Coleman brings to the role a wealth of experience across all aspects of the oil and gas industry."

Voelte announced his retirement in October and said he was privileged to have served in the best job of his career over the past seven years. ■