

# It's go for Pluto as build begins

A further 200 permanent roles will be needed when operations start in 2010. At least 30 will go to indigenous employees

**Jodi Elston, Karratha**

Construction has officially started on one of Australia's biggest resource projects, Woodside Energy's \$11.2 billion Pluto LNG Project located on the Burrup Peninsula, near Karratha.

WA Premier Alan Carpenter visited the site recently to attend a formal ceremony and unveil a plaque recognising the project launch.

He was joined by Woodside chief executive Don Voelte and representatives from the project's two major customers, Tokyo Gas and Kansai Electric.

Mr Voelte said Pluto was one of only two global LNG projects that had been approved in the past two years.

"Pluto is on schedule to be the fastest LNG project in the world from discovery to first gas, and the start of construction of the project is a very exciting time for Woodside," Mr

Voelte said.

"The pace of the project would not have been possible without the professionalism of the Commonwealth and Western Australian governments, both of whom continue to respond to schedule requirements without compromising their rigorous approvals and regulatory processes."

Although Pluto was only approved in late July, work on the project has been under way since December, 2006, when the Woodside Board approved initial funding for the project.

Work started in January on the project's storage tanks and export facility.

Site preparation for the gas processing plant also began last month.

Mr Voelte also said the company, Australia's second-biggest oil and gas producer, had begun feasibility studies into an expansion of Pluto.

The first phase of the Pluto Project

will produce about 4.3 million metric tonnes a year of LNG from a total plant capacity of 4.8 million tonnes.

Woodside is expected to ship its first cargo of LNG to its two Japanese project partners in 2010.

The pair signed a 15-year export deal with the energy giant for 3.75 million tonnes a year during Australia's successful APEC summit in August.

They also signed agreements to purchase a five per cent stake in the project, reducing Woodside's share to 90 per cent.

The project is expected to create 3000 jobs during the peak construction phase and contribute more than \$28 billion to the WA economy over its life.

A further 200 permanent roles will be needed when operations start in 2010. At least 30 of those will be awarded to indigenous employees.



Premier Alan Carpenter and Woodside CEO Don Voelte at the Pluto LNG site on the Burrup Peninsula