

# Woodside customers help LNG schedule

Nigel Wilson, Energy writer | *January 08, 2008*

**CUSTOMERS for Woodside's LNG have been asked to assist with the rescheduling of shipping, after an electrical fault shut down the Burrup Peninsula facilities last week.**

While domestic gas supplies resumed on Friday afternoon, LNG shipments cannot begin again until the plant's production capacity is ramped up.

A Woodside spokeswoman said yesterday that shipments were expected to resume within the next two days.

"Discussions have taken place with our customers so shipping is rescheduled and that output is deferred, and not lost," she said.

The NW West Shelf joint venturers, which include Woodside as operator, have promoted the Burrup plant's reliability as a key marketing tool in the Asian region.

Since shipments began in 1989, more than 2300 cargoes have been shipped to Japan China and South Korea with spot cargoes reaching markets in Europe and North America.

Even though production from the existing four processing trains has been halted in the past, the NW Shelf project claims never to have lost a shipment, even though several have been delayed or deferred.

Production at the Burrup plant, originally planned to resume last Thursday, was delayed until Friday as Woodside struggled to restart the machinery, which normally operates on gas, using diesel or distillate fuel.

Based on Woodside's third-quarter production report, the Shelf LNG project was on target to produce about 11.6 million tonnes of LNG in calendar 2007.

The Woodside spokeswoman said the company's original advice on the plant closure remained in force, in that the shutdown would not materially affect 2008 production.

She declined to confirm that Woodside had declared force majeure on domestic gas deliveries last week, while also refusing to comment on whether the NW Shelf joint venture faced compensation claims from customers who had lost production because of limited gas supplies.

A declaration of force majeure would normally excuse Woodside and its partners from liability if the electrical fault was judged to be an unforeseen event, and beyond the control of Woodside as operator.

