

## Woodside boss pushes second WA gas pipeline

WOODSIDE Petroleum has urged the WA Government to consider building a second pipeline from the North West to safeguard Perth's soaring energy needs against a breakdown of the existing line.

Woodside chief executive Don Voelte made the suggestion as part of an offer to help the Government formulate an emergency plan to deal with power crises such as the one triggered by Woodside's shutdown last month of its North West Shelf gas plant on the Burrup peninsula.

The 48-hour shutdown halted the supply of gas into the Dampier to Bunbury pipeline, the only link between the North-West and electricity-starved Perth and the South-West.

The shutdown sparked fears of power

blackouts in Perth and industrial users were asked to slash power consumption to ease the supply constraints.

The State Opposition and the WA Chamber of Commerce and Industry have pounced on the shutdown to call for back-up gas storage facilities as well as an overhaul of WA's energy policy.

Woodside contributes 70 per cent of the gas that fills the pipeline.

In his first comments on the shutdown, Mr Voelte told *The West Australian* last week Woodside had yet to hear from the Government about his emergency plan offer.

He said Woodside was willing to commit to "certain obligations" in any Government-led action plan but would not give details.