

ETS 'dead on arrival': Voelte

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THE prolonged global financial crisis means the Australian federal government must rethink the introduction of its proposed emissions trading scheme, Woodside Petroleum chief executive officer Don Voelte said yesterday.

"Heck, I think it's off the table right now," the *Australian* quoted him as saying.

"You can't put something like that in at this time until we get this whole fiscal chaos that's going on in the world straightened out – no government can risk jobs and the economy until we get stabilisation in the world marketplace.

"The ETS – as far as I'm concerned – appears to be dead on arrival for a 2010 start-up."

Voelte, a known critic of the scheme, added that Australia would not make a big difference introducing a carbon scheme on its own.

"If it's just Australia alone – plus losing a lot of jobs – that would be very unfortunate and very unwise for the government."

He also reiterated that the proposed ETS was an issue affecting a final investment decision for Woodside's Browse liquefied natural gas project.

Voelte had said previously that Woodside may cut Browse LNG expenditure if the ETS scheme failed to recognise LNG's contribution to reducing greenhouse gases and that the company would focus on the second train expansion at its Pluto LNG project.



Don Voelte - Woodside
managing director and
CEO