

Major work planned for shelf venture

WORKING around the clock, it will take hundreds of people about a month to complete a major planned maintenance program at the North West Shelf Venture's Karratha Gas Plant.

In mid May, the plant's original processing train, LNG 1, will undergo a six yearly inspection, overhaul and upgrade of its plant, equipment and gas turbines.

It is the first of two major planned maintenance programs scheduled at the Woodside Energy operated plant this year. A second is scheduled for late August.

Karratha Gas Plant vice-president Niall Myles said planned maintenance programs were essential to ensure optimum production and stable capacity at the plant.

"Woodside completes regular planned maintenance programs throughout the year to carry out routine inspection and repair of its plant and equipment," he said.

"Planned maintenance ensures the continued output, reliability and availability of

equipment which suffers daily operational wear.

"Planned maintenance programs also provide an excellent opportunity to complete important project work such as systems and equipment upgrades."

In addition to hundreds of local workers, Mr Myles said many more contractors would travel to Karratha from across Australia for the LNG 1 major maintenance program.

Crews would work a 12-hour continuous shift roster and be housed at Karratha's Bay Village and Sea Ripple accommodation camps.

"Although the temporary influx of workers will go unnoticed by most local residents, people should be prepared for a possible increase in bus traffic along the Dampier Highway at shift changeover times," Mr Myles said.

"During the shutdown, we will be running a day and a night shift and changeover times will be at 7am and 7pm."

Woodside turnaround superintendent Sergio Goimil said the major maintenance program

had taken a year to plan.

A team of dedicated maintenance planners had worked tirelessly to ensure the program would progress without any start-up delays.

"Preparing a planned maintenance program of this scale takes a lot of time and effort," Mr Goimil said.

"From organising labour to ordering parts, our team has been working very hard to ensure the shutdown is completed on time and without incident."

Woodside Energy safety adviser Darryl Collins said community organisations stood to benefit from a safety incentive scheme run throughout the planned maintenance program.

Mr Collins said health, safety and environmental targets would be set with a cash incentive awarded for achievement of these.

The program was of mutual benefit to Woodside and the local community and at the end of the planned maintenance program, a donation would be made to a not-for-profit organisation on behalf of the workers.



A Woodside technician oversees production at the North West Shelf Venture's Karratha gas plant. A