

25 March 2026

Mr Ryan Batchelor
Chair
Victorian Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

epc.council@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Batchelor

Questions taken on notice: Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee *Inquiry into Decommissioning Oil and Gas Infrastructure*

Woodside once again thanks the Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee (the Committee) for the opportunity to share views on decommissioning of oil and gas infrastructure including the responses to the questions on notice at **Attachment 1**.

Woodside was founded in Victoria more than 70 years ago and has since grown to become Australia's leading energy company. We operate across Australia and internationally, supplying energy relied upon daily by households, industry and communities. Our operations are grounded in extensive experience, a strong safety culture and a clear responsibility to manage assets across their full lifecycle, including their decommissioning.

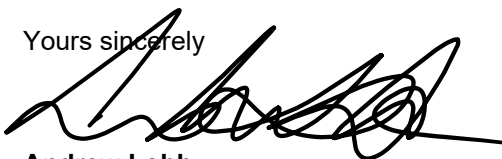
Decommissioning is a complex and carefully sequenced activity that must be planned years in advance. It often requires specialised marine vessels, drilling capability and international expertise. Woodside's approach is designed to ensure that decommissioning is conducted safely, responsibly and in line with regulatory expectations, while giving governments confidence that infrastructure will be retired predictably and in a timely manner.

Woodside's Victorian portfolio includes retired offshore infrastructure in the Otway Basin and infrastructure in the Bass Strait and Gippsland that connects directly into Victoria's energy system. Subject to regulatory approvals, Woodside is progressing toward assuming operatorship of the Bass Strait assets in 2026. This will strengthen Woodside's ability to meet domestic energy demand and maintain reliable supply for Victorian consumers and industry, whilst plans to manage the decommissioning of offshore wells, platforms and pipelines across Australia is done in a coordinated and orderly way.

In Victoria, Woodside recently completed the plugging and abandonment of the remaining Minerva wells and removed approximately 1,400 tonnes of subsea equipment. This material has been transported to Laverton North for dismantling and recycling, supporting local businesses and demonstrating the economic benefits that well planned decommissioning activity can create for regional supply chains.

Woodside believes that the way decommissioning is delivered matters not only for environmental outcomes but also for building local and national capability. Woodside recognises that community expectations continue to evolve and is proactively engaging with communities, Traditional Owners, and other stakeholders to ensure their perspectives are understood and considered throughout planning and implementation. Woodside's aim is to balance safety, environmental protection, community expectations and regulatory requirements in a practical and transparent way.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Lobb
Vice President Decommissioning

Attachment 1 – Woodside response to questions on notice

- 1. There has been a lot of consumer concern that has come up in the context of discussions around this inquiry with regard to Woodside's history. Putting aside Minerva, which we understand is potentially sub judice at the moment, you do have a bit of a record of problems in terms of environmental spills if we go to – what have we got – around Ningaloo and a couple of your other sites in the south, to the point where I think the US environmental regulator in one of their reports cited your Australian operations as a potential risk in considering applications in the US. What is your response to that?**

Woodside takes any concerns about operations seriously and remains committed to transparency and responsible project delivery. As Woodside progresses LNG project development in the U.S., engagements with the U.S. regulators and communities are taking place constructively to ensure all applicable environmental and safety requirements are met.

Woodside welcomes rigorous regulatory processes and the opportunity it provides to demonstrate the strength of the company's operating standards.

- 2. When I asked the department of environment – it was earth resources and energy infrastructure today – in Victoria and considering the Victorian footprint of legislation and regulation, they said that they had had good and 'robust', I think was the word, communications with Exxon. Have you to date had any conversations with Victorian state government departments, or is that still in the future?**

Woodside has engaged with a number of Victorian departments in relation to both our Minerva decommissioning project and in relation to the transfer operatorship of the Gippsland Basin Joint Venture (GBJV) assets from Esso Australia to Woodside. The meetings include the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Victorian Environment Protection Authority, and Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions.

- 3. Just looking at it from a Victorian perspective, the current gas – I have forgotten the name, but they say it is 200 petajoules. So let us say there is 10, 15 years of gas there. If Woodside get to a point where those wells do not have any more supply and Woodside does not actually have any other investments in Victoria that meet the state's desires going forward, like electricity generation or something that really contributes to our state, I suppose it is just that hesitation of – you know, if you look at the International Energy Agency, they are saying world gas sales are going to start to diminish in the next 10 to 15 years. So if Woodside is not diversifying its income streams, from a risk perspective the Victorian government looks at it and says, 'Well, here's a company that is not diversified insofar as its financial risk. How do we know that it's going to be able to complete the works over those next 20, 30 years?'**

Woodside is a resilient, financially robust global business with a long track record of safely delivering major projects and meeting all of our obligations over multiple decades. While the company's portfolio is focused on energy, it is also diversified across regions, products, joint ventures, and time horizons. This diversification underpins the stability of the company's cash flows and ability to fund long-term commitments.

Woodside also operates under strong governance frameworks and maintains disciplined capital management, which are outlined in our annual sustainability report and general annual report. These frameworks ensure Woodside has the financial strength, operational capability, and risk management systems necessary to complete work programs over the next 20 to 30 years.