

## **Woodside's Plan for drilling on Scott Reef (Upstream browse LNG assessment)**

### **Some of the Main Issues you may want to Address in the Public Submission**

#### **The Gas Process**

- Woodside still does not have necessary environmental approvals to build its proposed gas hub at James Price Point or anywhere else.
- Until the location for processing the Browse basin gas has been agreed on and approved, it is too early to give Woodside approval to extract the gas from the sensitive marine environment at Scott Reef.

#### **Scott Reef is a National Heritage Area and it has been Flagged for a Marine protected Area**

- Scott Reef is listed as a national heritage area.
- Scott Reef is currently being assessed for a commonwealth marine protected area. The commonwealth values Scott Reef's important biodiversity, enhanced productivity and species aggregations and has included it as part of the Northwest Marine Planning process.
- Woodside is trying to rush through an approval to damage Scott Reef before it can be properly protected.

#### **Hydrocarbon Spills**

- Fossil fuel companies have repeatedly demonstrated that accidental hydrocarbon spills are a realistic consequence of extracting fossil fuels from remote, under-sea environments. Government regulation and modern engineering practices failed to prevent the gas pipeline rupture at Varanus Island, the Montara oil spill in the Timor Sea, and the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.
- As the gas in the Browse basin contains unusually high levels of carbon dioxide, there is an increased risk of pipe corrosion and accidental spill.
- Woodside's own modeling in the EIS admits that the impact of a hydrocarbon spill at or near Scott Reef would be far reaching and devastating.

#### **Carbon**

- The gas in the Browse basin contains around 10% carbon dioxide. If the Browse basin gas is extracted, it will be one of the world's most carbon intensive LNG projects and will emit around 0.65 tonnes of carbon dioxide for every tonne of LNG extracted.
- Conservative estimates indicate that 15 million tonnes of greenhouse gases would be emitted every year from the proposed Browse basin gas extraction.
- Documents from the WA Department of State Development indicate that the development of the Browse basin gas fields will increase West Australia's existing carbon dioxide emissions by a whopping 20 – 60%

- The development of the Browse basin gas fields will make it virtually impossible for WA and Australia to meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets.

### **Turtles**

- There is a genetically distinct population of green turtles that nest at Scott reef (DEWHA, 2009), both nesting turtles and hatchlings will be directly impacted by the artificial light from the platform. Five other species of marine turtles (Hawksbill, Flatback, Leatherback, Loggerhead and Olive-Ridley) have been identified feeding and migrating around Scott reef.
- Turtles are known to migrate from Barrow Island to Scott Reef. However, Woodside has failed to address the cumulative impacts of development at both locations.
- Woodside has failed to address the recommendations in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles*.
- The World Conservation Union (IUCN) has assigned Endangered status to all species except the hawksbill and leatherback turtles which are listed as Critically Endangered, and the flatback turtle, which is listed as data deficient.

### **Whales**

- Underwater noise, from deep-water seismic drilling has been shown to lethally affect whales and dolphins. Woodside's own research has found Humpback and Pygmy blue whales in the vicinity of upstream development. The pipelines for this development directly cross the migration paths ways of Humpback whales and Pygmy blue whales.
- The impacts of underwater noise, increased levels of shipping and pipelines across migration paths have not been adequately addressed in the EIS.
- While Woodside's EIS acknowledges that a further eight listed migratory cetacean species are likely to occur at or near Scott Reef, Woodside has failed to conduct the necessary work to determine the likely impact on these species.

### **Dolphins**

- Woodside's EIS has almost totally disregarded the presence and ecology of several rare species of Kimberley coast dolphins.

### **Whale Sharks**

- The illusive whale shark is known to pass alongside Scott Reef in their migration from Ningaloo. Woodside's own research indicates that we do not yet know whether Scott Reef is part of the migration point or an aggregation point for whale sharks.
- Woodside's EIS has failed to quantify or address the impacts which the Scott Reef development will have on whale sharks.

### **Decommissioning**

- As it is currently proposed, any approval to drill out of Scott Reef is not subject to an enforceable decommissioning plan at the end of the project.

- Woodside's EIS proposes to leave the problem of decommissioning to the next generation.

### **Getting your Submission In**

1. *Email your submissions to [BrowseEIS@woodside.com.au](mailto:BrowseEIS@woodside.com.au)*
2. *To ensure that your concerns reach the decision makers and not just Woodside, we also suggest that you send your concerns to the Environmental Protection Authority at [submissions@epa.gov.au](mailto:submissions@epa.gov.au) and also to the federal department of Environment at [epbc.referrals@environment.gov.au](mailto:epbc.referrals@environment.gov.au)*
3. *Feel free to contact our Kimberley Project Officer to discuss your submission or to let us know if you have noticed an important issue in the EIS which you think other community members need to know about.*

*You will need to provide your submission to Woodside prior to  
**25 January 2012***