

Pluto Train 2

Commissioning and start-up

Overview

Woodside is progressing commissioning and start-up activities for the new Pluto Train 2, in preparation for the start-up of the Scarborough Energy Project. The project is on track for first liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargo in Q4 2026.

These activities support the safe, reliable and long-term operations of the Pluto LNG facility in Karratha and are a significant milestone for the project.

Commissioning and start-up

Commissioning and start-up is a structured, multi-phase process to verify systems are safe and are ready to commence LNG operations. It involves activities to confirm equipment is installed correctly and operates as intended before production ramps-up. It differs from our regular operations and maintenance activities.

LNG facilities process gas under very high pressure. As different parts of the plant are tested and adjusted during the commissioning and start-up process, there can be times when gas cannot yet be used, processed or stored safely within the facility. The flare system plays an important role to safely and efficiently manage this gas,

Flaring

During commissioning and start-up, gas that cannot be processed through the facility is managed through the flare system.

Flaring is a controlled safety process where excess gas is safely burned and is a normal and necessary part of starting up a new LNG processing train. Where possible we aim to minimise flaring as part of our normal operations.

Woodside's flaring activities are closely monitored and conducted in accordance with regulatory requirements, including in relation to requirements under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA)*.

What will this look like

Increased flaring is planned during commissioning and start-up, with the potential for increased localised noise and visible dark smoke.

Woodside seeks to communicate information about planned and unplanned flaring activities, through social media, advertising and stakeholder engagement activities to support awareness within the City of Karratha.



Pluto LNG Plant including Pluto Train 2 (April 2026)



Frequently asked questions

Will dark smoke from flaring affect local air quality?

Commissioning and start-up activities can result in periods of visible dark smoke from flaring, which is monitored and managed in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements.

During Pluto Train 2 commissioning and start-up, air quality management requirements set by regulators continue to apply, and operations are managed to minimise emissions where practicable.

Historical air quality studies conducted during Pluto Train 1 commissioning and start-up, including an independent review of 12 months of operational data from 2011-2012, found no direct correlation between dark smoke flaring and increased particulate matter at ground level.¹

These historical studies also found that particulate matter levels in the Burrup region are typically influenced by natural events such as strong winds and bushfires, with emissions from onshore gas plants recognised as a relatively small contributor in comparison.²

How will Woodside manage and report its emissions through Pluto Train 2 commissioning and start-up?

Woodside measures, analyses and estimates emissions in line with federal and state regulatory requirements. In practice, this includes the extensive use of measurement devices such as flowmeters, gas analysers and samplers.

We work with the regulator so that they are aware of upcoming commissioning and start-up activities and our plans to monitor and manage this as part of our license conditions.

Regulations require careful data checking and reporting for matters including licences, works approvals, compliance obligations, and National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) and National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) requirements.

Will dark smoke impact rock art at Murujuga?

Based on the Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring Program work to date, intermittent smoke emissions from flaring have not been identified as a key risk area or shown to be accelerating changes to rock art at Murujuga.³

Smoke emissions are managed in line with the requirements of our regulatory approvals including measures aimed at reducing the frequency and duration of such emissions where practicable.

Further information

If you would like further information, please scan the QR code below, call Woodside's Community Line on 1800 634 988 or email northwestcommunities@woodside.com



Note. Video content is for illustration purposes and reflects Woodside's views as at the date of publication.

1. An independent review of PM2.5 monitoring results acquired at Karratha, Dampier and Burrup monitoring stations from December 2011 to December 2012 was conducted by Golder for the Pluto LNG Development (Golder, 2014).

2. Woodside Energy Ltd (2019). North West Shelf Project Extension – Environmental Review Document (Revision 1, December 2019). <https://www.woodside.com/docs/default-source/current-consultation-activities/australian-activities/north-west-shelf-project-extension---environmental-review-document.pdf>, pp48

3. Curtin University, 2024. Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring Program: Monitoring Studies Report 2024. Curtin University, Perth, WA. Available from: https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2025-05/murujuga-rock-art-monitoring-program_monitoring-studies-report-2024.pdf

Woodside Energy recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's first people. We acknowledge the unique connection of the Traditional Custodians to land, waters and the environment where we operate in the City of Karratha. We extend this recognition and respect to Indigenous Peoples and communities around the world.