

# Karratha Community Update

## April 2025



Liz Westcott Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Australia.

## Woodside hopes to keep on contributing

*As seen in the Pilbara News - Wednesday, 12 March 2025.*

Last year, Woodside celebrated 70 years as a proud Australian company, and the North West Shelf Project marked 40 years of operations from right here in Karratha.

We are proud to be a part of this community. It's where our story started.

But there is currently a debate playing out that could determine the future of the North West Shelf Project and the ongoing operation of its Karratha Gas Plant.

The North West Shelf Project Extension approval is required to enable operations beyond 2030.

Let's be clear — this approval does not involve expanding our onshore infrastructure or footprint on Murujuga.

It allows us to continue our existing operations across the North West Shelf Project.

In December last year, six years after we applied, the State Government approved the North West Shelf Project Extension proposal, with conditions including cultural heritage, emissions and air quality. We take our responsibility to manage cultural heritage seriously, guided by Traditional Owners, heritage experts and credible science.

Following the robust assessment from the State, a final decision now rests with the Federal Government, and the stakes are high.

The North West Shelf Project supplies 14 per cent of WA's domestic gas — gas that not only powers homes, but also the mining operations and industries that provide many local jobs and underpin the economic strength of the Pilbara and Australia.

The North West Shelf Project alone employs about 900 people, and some 1300 contractors.

Almost 300 Woodsideers and their families live locally and work at the Karratha Gas Plant.

This year they were joined by 22 new apprentices and trainees who were welcomed into the Woodside Training Academy.

In 2024, the North West Shelf Project invested \$5.1 million in the Karratha community on initiatives including education, health and liveability. Annually we spend around \$1 billion with WA businesses, including contractors and service providers based in Karratha, and in 2024 about 700 WA businesses were engaged by the North West Shelf.

Last year I was pleased to be able to join some of our longstanding partners in Karratha as we celebrated our 40-year milestone.

I spoke with representatives from local schools, businesses and not-for-profit community organisations. I was humbled by what Woodside and the community here in Karratha have built together over the four decades of North West Shelf operations.

And it can continue to contribute, supporting our State's gas supply, the economy and the Karratha community for decades to come.

Extending the life of the North West Shelf Project will enable the future of our world-class operations, using existing infrastructure to produce the gas that local industry needs and our regional partners rely upon.

It enables us to leverage our decades of experience while unlocking long-term value through the development of the remaining North West Shelf reserves and processing of third-party gas.

Importantly, it allows us to make the business decisions today that will help maximise the use of processing capacity at the Karratha Gas Plant into the future.

With the Australian Energy Market Operator forecasting gas shortfalls in WA from 2028, extending the life of the North West Shelf Project makes sense.

But to be in a position to do this, we need a pragmatic approach from our nation's decision-makers. We need timely decisions to provide operational certainty and confidence to support the ongoing development of gas reserves that will keep the Karratha Gas Plant running.

We can all be proud of what the North West Shelf Project has contributed to Karratha over the last 40 years — and we're working to secure its ongoing contribution to the community we call home.

Woodside Energy recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's first peoples.

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 First Nations peoples and communities around the world.



L-R: Roebourne District High School Chaplain Beth Smith, Roebourne District High School Principal Liz Ritchie, Woodside CEO Meg O'Neill, WA Premier Roger Cook and Kevin Michel MLA.

## Investment continues to reach students in Roebourne

Woodside welcomed the new year with an exciting announcement.

In January, our CEO Meg O'Neill joined us at Roebourne District High School to share details of our significant contribution to the school's redevelopment.

Alongside WA Premier Roger Cook, Meg announced a contribution of \$20 million over five years to the upgrades. Woodside's contribution will come from our A\$50 million commitment to the Western Australian Government's Resources Community Investment Initiative.

Meg said funding was directed towards programs that deliver tangible benefits for the sustainability and liveability of our host communities.

"Our investment in the Roebourne District High School upgrades builds on our long-term commitment to positive regional education outcomes through the Karratha and Roebourne Education Initiative," said Meg.

For more than 16 years, we have proudly contributed to the Karratha and Roebourne Education Initiative (KREI) together with our joint venture participants. The partnership with local schools invests in opportunities to support the academic achievements of students and the development of their dedicated teachers.

Roebourne District High School is one of the long-standing participants of the KREI.

In 2024, the school developed a program to support students sitting the Western Australian Department of Education's Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA). Designed for secondary students to demonstrate they successfully meet the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy, the OLNA is an important step in supporting students on their path to further study and training.

Several students at the school were identified as requiring additional assistance and intervention to reach an OLNA pass level in one or more of the assessment areas.

Through the support of the KREI, individual learning and social needs of each student preparing to sit the OLNA were assessed so educational support could be tailored. Resources such as one-to-one and small group tutoring opportunities, and online training tools were provided focusing on building the skills required to improve students' OLNA results.

Roebourne District High School Principal Elizabeth Ritchie said the students who participated demonstrated greater levels of confidence when sitting the OLNA, resulting in one of the highest recorded sittings for the test at our school.

"The OLNA achievements of participating students have not only enhanced their own education experience but is positively impacting peers, because our students are actively supporting their classmates to improve their own reading, writing, and numeracy skills," said Elizabeth.



# Woodside helps connect Cherratta to Country

Woodside was proud to award a \$35 million contract to Cherratta Lodge earlier this year. The agreement marks the first time Woodside has awarded a village accommodation contract to a business owned by a Traditional Owner.

Under the agreement, Cherratta will accommodate the Pluto Train 1 modifications construction workforce, part of the Scarborough Energy Project.

Woodside initiated discussions last year with long-standing partner Cherratta Lodge, based in Karratha's Industrial Estate.

It was then that Cherratta owner Malcolm Wylie raised the prospect of a new partnership that could transition the site into a village owned and operated by a Traditional Owner – someone with traditional connections to the area.

Malcolm's vision was twofold: to give back to the community in which the business operates and for the site to become a leading facility providing career opportunities for Indigenous people.

"Not everyone wants to or can work on a mine site or a gas plant. A place like Cherratta not only provides jobs like gardening, cleaning, catering, access to trades and apprenticeships, it will deliver mentorship and empowerment programs for fledgling Indigenous businesses," said Malcolm.

Together with his business partner Aaron Polini, Malcolm invited Traditional Owner and Ngarluma Elder Harry Mowarin to join them in the ownership of Cherratta, after building a trusting friendship and agreeing on solutions to challenges together.

"As part of Cherratta's new energy projects, the company awarded a \$1 million contract to Harry's contracting business," said Malcolm.

"Harry is a Ngarluma Elder who is well respected in the community and during the successful execution of this contract we realised Harry was the perfect fit for Cherratta. Through our programs he could help guide Indigenous people to learn, grow, develop skills and increase their confidence in an environment that is culturally safe, and on their own country."



L-R: Harry Mowarin Traditional Owner and Ngarluma Elder, Malcolm Wylie Cherratta Lodge business partner, Julie Attwood Local Content Manager and Rebekka Scroop Villages Coordinator.

Rebekka Scroop, our Villages Coordinator and Woodside's Local Content Manager, Julie Attwood both realised the potential significance of the agreement and the value it could provide to the local Indigenous community where we operate.

"It made sense. Woodside's contract would provide Cherratta with the confidence and security to support their transition to become a Traditional Owner village by securing a fixed number of rooms over three years, for the Pluto Train 1 modifications workforce," said Rebekka.

"By coming together to work towards a common goal, we had the opportunity to create a significant impact that will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come," said Rebekka.

Harry is overwhelmed by the opportunities this landmark agreement can create for both his family and his people. "This connection with Cherratta is life changing for me and my family."

"It's something that I never thought would be possible in my lifetime. For me, it's generational healing. I want to leave something behind for the emerging generation, for them to set themselves up and have a chance at a decent life," said Harry.



Woodside Training Academy graduates and mentor award winners.

## Woodside's own Academy Awards

Eighteen apprentices and trainees have joined the ranks of Woodside Training Academy participants who have been welcomed into roles across our operations.

The Woodside Training Academy Graduation and Awards held at Red Earth Arts Precinct saw the cohort celebrated for their achievements in completing their training.

Reflecting on the event, Academy Team Lead Jacqui Meeson said it provided a special opportunity to recognise the entire graduating group and the outstanding performance of individuals throughout their training.

"The award recipients were not only selected for their excellence during their training but also for their dedication, commitment and consistent demonstration of Woodside's values," said Jacqui.

"We are incredibly proud of what all of the apprentices and trainees have accomplished across their learning journey and we look forward to seeing their continued success throughout their careers with Woodside."

Several Woodsiders were acknowledged alongside the graduates for the support they provided the trainees and apprentices during their time at the Academy.

In his opening address, NWS Onshore Asset Manager Derek Paulgaard expressed his thanks for those across the business who played an essential role in contributing to the growth and development of the cohort.

"When the graduates faced challenges throughout their training, they had a network of family and friends to provide support and guide them. They also had a group of trainers, mentors, supervisors and peers who they could rely on," said Derek.

This year, 22 Karratha-based apprentices and trainees have been recruited by our partner Programmed Training Services and will be hosted at the Woodside Training Academy.

The 2025 intake includes seven operator trainees, 10 apprentices, three pre-pathway trainees and two school-based trainees – one trainee from Karratha Senior High School and one from Roebourne District High School.

Thirteen of the training participants are female and 14 are Indigenous. They are now part of the more than 80 apprentices and trainees building their skills and experience across our Western Australian operations.



Dampier Playgroup was previously awarded a Woodside Community Grant to help purchase new play equipment.

## Giving back through community grants

Last year, we extended our grant offerings in the City of Karratha in celebration of our 70 years as a proud Australian company and four decades of safe and reliable operations in the place we call home.

Ten community and not-for-profit organisations were awarded Woodside Anniversary Grants of up to \$100,000 for programs and activities that deliver positive local outcomes.

This March, we ran our first of two community grants rounds for 2025. If you missed out, don't worry, applications will be open again in October.

We have been running the program for seven years, awarding grants of up to \$5,000 to support community initiatives in the City of Karratha and Shire of Exmouth.

It's part of our commitment to building local capacity and supporting opportunities that strengthen wellbeing in the community.

We were excited to announce the recipients of our Woodside Anniversary Grants in January.

Woodside Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Australia Liz Westcott said Woodside and its joint venture participants

in the North West Shelf Project and Scarborough Energy Project's Pluto Train 2 were pleased to support these valuable initiatives.

"Karratha is where our Western Australia story began and we understand that being a part of the community is centred on developing strong relationships and making meaningful contributions," said Liz.

"We have done this for 40 years and look forward to continue supporting projects and programs that provide local solutions to local challenges."

Grant recipients included:

- St John Ambulance to help purchase new ambulances and lifesaving equipment across its Karratha, Roebourne and Wickham operations.
- Yaandina Community Services for the installation of air-conditioning in its Roebourne residential detoxification facility.
- Yinjaa-Barni Art to support upgrades at its Roebourne art studio.
- The WA Centre for Rural Health to deliver a business case to support the development of a Centre for Applied Research and Education (CARE) hub in Karratha.
- Reach Us Pilbara for the purchase of equipment for its Karratha cancer support services centre.
- Juluwarlu Group for the delivery of the Yindjibarndi Wellness pilot program for Jadas and Gurri.
- Karratha RSL for the installation of solar panels, battery storage and new air-conditioners in its facility.
- Pilbara for Purpose to support the delivery of cultural competency training for community service providers.
- Karratha Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services to support the upgrade of storage facilities to support year-round storage of firefighting equipment.
- Dampier Community Association for the purchase of kitchen equipment to support activation of the Dampier foreshore kiosk.

If you would like more information about our next round of grants, you can contact us at [northwestcommunities@woodside.com](mailto:northwestcommunities@woodside.com)

## Listening to our local community

Our approach to social performance at Woodside begins with understanding the potential impacts and opportunities associated with our activities.

Consultants from GHD recently visited Karratha and met with a range of stakeholders to inform Woodside's socio-economic impact assessment. Participants included Woodside's Karratha Community Liaison Group, local businesses, state and local government bodies, social contribution partners and healthcare providers.

During the engagements, participants were presented with a series of scenarios for our ongoing operations and proposed projects in the City of Karratha. Their valuable reflections and insights in response to the scenarios will assist in the identification and management of social impacts and benefits, including opportunities to contribute to the local community.

Woodside's Senior Social Performance Adviser David Collins is leading the assessment scope and said it is important to have the local community be a part of the journey.

"Over the past 40 years of operations, we have built strong relationships in community to enable ongoing engagement across all phases of our activities," said David.

"This is an important piece of work to understand sentiment towards Woodside by listening to concerns and asking how we can best manage impacts on a local level."

The socio-economic impact assessment will continue throughout 2025 as GHD visits community stakeholders in Roebourne.

To find out more about Woodside's approach to social performance please visit our [website](#).

GHD consulting with local business Yurra.



# Let's Talk

## Our plans, Your say



Scan the QR code or head to [woodside.com/consultation-activities](https://woodside.com/consultation-activities) to read our latest edition and Environment Plan consultation information.

We welcome feedback on your relevant functions, activities or interests. Alternatively, you can contact us at [consultation@feedback.woodside.com](mailto:consultation@feedback.woodside.com) or on 1800 442 977.