

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio  
Budget Estimates 2005-2006, 30-31 May 2005

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES  
**OUTCOME/OUTPUT:** Outcome 1, Output 1.2  
**TOPIC:** INDUSTRY CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT POLICY ON PETROLEUM EXPLORATION  
**REFERENCE:** HANSARD 31/05/05, PAGE E4

**QUESTION No.38**  
(Hansard 31/05/05, p.E4)

**Senator O'Brien** asked about:

In response to a question from Senator O'Brien regarding industry criticism of government policy in the area of petroleum exploration, Mr Hartwell offered to table correspondence from the Managing Director of Woodside supporting what the Government has done in this area.

**ANSWER**

A copy of the letter is attached.



Our Ref : MD:DRV-3160  
Please direct any responses to (61 8) 9348 5001 Tel / (61 8) 9226 3552 Fax

11 May 2005

The Hon I Macfarlane MP  
Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources  
Suite MG 51  
Parliament House  
Canberra, ACT, 2600

*Resources*

MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY, TOURISM & RESOURCES

☐ Reply by Minister (ITR)

☐ Reply by Minister (SB & T)

☐ Reply by Parliamentary Secretary

☐ Reply by Adviser/COS

Date Received **17 MAY 2005**

☐ Reply by Departmental Officer

☐ For appropriate action

☒ For information (NFA)

☐ Prepare brief advising Minister

☐ Referral to.....

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Dear Minister,

I write to congratulate you on the policy changes to the Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (PRRT) and the adjustments to the proposed Gas Transfer Pricing Regulations announced as part of this year's Federal Budget.

Woodside believes that the changes announced will have a significant positive benefit for our industry and will be welcomed across Australia's energy sector.

The adjustments to the Gas Transfer Pricing Regulations will assist in providing fiscal certainty for future LNG projects in Australia and will enhance our ability to compete internationally.

The changes to the PRRT, while technical in nature, are a significant step forward in making the system easier to work with. There is no question that in doing so these changes will provide benefits to both the government and the industry.

I understand that securing these changes has been a long process and Woodside would like to record its appreciation for the patience and professionalism of officials from your department over this period. The cooperative approach between your officials, officials from the Department of Treasury and industry representatives to the discussions so far provides a solid foundation for further efforts to build Australia's energy exports.

I would also like to express our deep appreciation for your ongoing personal support for the LNG industry in Australia. Your efforts will help deliver a lasting benefit both for our industry and for the Australian economy.

Yours sincerely,

Don Voelte  
**Managing Director & CEO**

**WOODSIDE PETROLEUM LTD.**

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