

Woodside names Pluto site

By Nicole Heinrich

WOODSIDE Energy is taking steps to develop its Pluto liquefied natural gas project on the Burrup Peninsula after making a final site selection.

The company has begun environmental impact assessment for early site works for the installation of LNG and condensate tanks for the development.

It has also released a public environmental review covering the work.

Woodside had also considered Onslow for the project but a spokeswoman said the Burrup Industrial Estate offered a lower development cost, deep water for shipping, existing infrastructure and government support.

"We have conducted extensive environmental surveys and modelling and believe we can operate on the Burrup in a way that is environmentally acceptable," she said.

"We also believe we can, in consultation with the indigenous community, manage cultural heritage appropriately."

She said Woodside hoped to begin earthworks at the site in the

fourth quarter of this year.

Woodside discovered the Pluto gas field about 190 kilometres north-west of Karratha last April.

The company hopes to build an offshore production platform with five wells and a 200-kilometre pipeline.

Onshore facilities will include an LNG plant with up to two trains and the capacity of producing five to seven million tonnes of LNG a year for 15 years.

There will also be a loading jetty, ships and other infrastructure.

"During the first half of this year, we will consult with the local community to develop to a social impact assessment and management plan that ensures we maximise positive impacts and minimise negative impacts," the spokeswoman said.

"Issues we are already aware of and will pay particular attention to are housing, fly-in fly-out workforces and training requirements and we are in the process of appointing specialist consultants to focus on these areas."