

Woodside's Browse project will go to WA

By Peter Klinger

WA's resources boom is set for another \$20 billion fillip after Woodside Petroleum boss Don Voelte said yesterday his company's giant Browse gas project would be developed in this State, rather than in the Northern Territory.

Dismissing Darwin as a possible location for Browse's onshore facilities, Mr Voelte said his team was considering either the Kimberley coastline, most likely

near Broome, or the Burrup Peninsula where Woodside already has extensive operations, as the most likely locations. Mr Voelte wants his board to give the final approval for the Browse project within two years as part of his aggressive plans to turn Woodside, WA's biggest company, into the world's fourth-biggest producer of liquefied natural gas (LNG) by 2015. Woodside's preferred location will require State Government approval.

The Browse gasfield contains more than 20 trillion cubic feet of gas.

Woodside created Australian history last year when it signed a longterm gas supply contract with Petro-China, potentially worth more than \$20 billion.

Woodside is yet to reveal the cost of Browse, which will consist of offshore facilities to link the gasfield via a seabed pipeline to onshore processing facilities capable of producing up to 14 million tonnes of LNG a year.