

## **BHP Billiton: Browse LNG Project To Cost More Than US\$25 Billion**

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MELBOURNE -(Dow Jones)- Woodside Petroleum Ltd.'s (WPL.AU) massive Browse liquefied natural gas project offshore Western Australia state is expected to cost more than US\$25 billion, part-owner BHP Billiton Ltd. (BHP) said Thursday.



The project, which is targeting production of 15 million tons a year of LNG, will cost "something north of US\$25 billion when it's all put in," BHP Petroleum Chief Executive Michael Yeager said in a webcast presentation from London Thursday.

Woodside, which operates and owns 50% of the project, hasn't given a cost estimate for the project and is currently looking at options to develop the project.

Yeager also said BHP Billiton wants to combine the Thebe and Scarborough fields off the coast of Western Australia. Yeager said recent drilling has strengthened expectations that Thebe, which is fully owned by BHP, contains between 2 and 3 trillion cubic feet of gas. Scarborough, which is bigger and thought to hold 8 tcf of gas, is operated and half-owned by Exxon Mobil Corp.

"We're looking at how to join these things up and possibly go forward with a development," he said.

The Macedon field, which like Thebe and Scarborough is in the Exmouth Basin, but closer to shore, is likely to be sold domestically and BHP "is trying to finalize exactly what those terms are," Yeager said, adding that he hopes to have the project approved "soon."

The field is thought to contain about 1.2 tcf of recoverable gas.

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