



Piece by piece: Woodside's first Pluto LNG processing plant module at the Burrup site on Monday

First Pluto LNG module arrives at Burrup

PETER KLINGER

Woodside Petroleum has installed the first of about 260 Thai-built modules that will make up its Pluto liquefied natural gas plant on the Burrup peninsula in WA's North-West.

The first massive purpose-built module was put into place on Monday. Another 10 modules are due to arrive before the year-end.

Construction of the \$12 billion project, which will link the offshore Pluto and Xena gasfields about 190km north-west of Karratha to the Burrup plant and be capable of

producing 4.3 million tonnes of LNG a year, is about 30 per cent complete, on budget and on schedule. The gasfields contain 4.4 trillion cubic feet of gas.

The modular design of Pluto follows a similar strategy employed by Woodside at the North West Shelf Venture's fifth LNG train, which was completed two months ago. The \$2.6 billion train was the first LNG facility in the world to be designed and assembled as a modular plant.

LNG plants have traditionally been built from scratch and on-site. In pursuing the modular route with NWS 5, Woodside tried to minimise

the impact of soaring construction costs in WA and an acute labour shortage by building the plant piecemeal overseas and then shipping individual components to the Burrup peninsula.

Woodside has sufficient space at Pluto for another two trains but is yet to secure sufficient gas to push ahead with the expansion.

The Perth company will host its annual analyst briefing in Sydney next week, at which it is expected to be asked to update its Pluto 2 efforts as well as development progress for both the Sunrise and Browse Basin LNG projects.