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Attention: Dr Joshua Forkert  
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Sent by email: [jscfadt@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscfadt@aph.gov.au)

28 April 2017

Dear Mr Forkert

## **INQUIRY INTO MODERN SLAVERY**

I refer to your correspondence of 21 February 2017, inviting Woodside Energy Limited (Woodside) to make a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee's Inquiry into modern slavery (the Inquiry).

Woodside notes that the Inquiry's terms of reference make specific reference to the United Kingdom's (UK's) *Modern Slavery Act 2015*. Woodside supports the principles underlying the MSA and recognises the importance of the Committee's due consideration of Australia adopting a comparable Modern Slavery Act.

### **Woodside's approach**

Woodside recognises the importance of operating with transparency and integrity, particularly with respect to human rights, in all locations where we do business. To support a holistic and integrated approach to ensuring that human rights are respected across our business, Woodside established a human rights working committee in 2016. This committee will work throughout 2017 to undertake benchmarking of Woodside's policies and systems against industry leaders.

In 2016, Woodside undertook human rights risks assessments in a number of countries where we have activities. These assessments primarily focused on Myanmar and countries in West Africa. Woodside also participated in a number of national and international forums that aim to advance the protection of human rights, including the Australian UN Global Compact Annual Plenary and the Australian Government National Action Plan process. We also participated in the Multinational Investors Group, coordinated by the International Labour Organisation and Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB), and joint government-investor workshops conducted by MCRB and the Norwegian Environment Agency in Myanmar.

Woodside's commitment to human rights is also evident from it having become a signatory to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights in 2015.

We seek to work with suppliers and contractors to prevent slavery and human trafficking in our supply chain. In 2016, we worked with four major suppliers to review their supply chains to identify potential human rights risks. In 2017, we will continue to review and benchmark our procurement processes and engage with our suppliers.

To further demonstrate our commitment to working towards preventing the occurrence of slavery and human trafficking in our operations, Woodside voluntarily published, in its 2016 Sustainable Development Report, the following Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for the 2016 financial year:

***“Modern slavery and human trafficking***

*Woodside is committed to working towards preventing the occurrence of slavery and human trafficking in our operations.*

*To further demonstrate this commitment, Woodside has decided to voluntarily publish the following Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for the 2016 financial year:*

*Woodside’s Code of Conduct (the Code) recognises and respects the basic human rights of all people and seeks to ensure that we are not complicit in human rights abuses of others.*

*The Code also requires those working for Woodside to act ethically, consistent with Woodside’s values of integrity, respect, working sustainably, working together, discipline and excellence. Those working for Woodside are expected to treat every person in line with Woodside values and support inclusion and diversity. Woodside personnel receive regular training regarding the company’s Code of Conduct requirements and expectations.*

*Woodside requires suppliers to comply with a Supplier Code of Business Conduct that mandates that suppliers must respect the basic human rights of all people and ensure they are not complicit in human rights abuses.*

*Woodside maintains an effective Whistleblower framework for employees and suppliers to report suspected breaches of any laws, regulations, policies or the Code.*

*Woodside will continue to work with suppliers and contractors in relation to human rights risks including modern slavery and human trafficking.”*

Woodside recognises the value of the Committee’s work in this Inquiry. I trust that this submission will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Michael Abbott

**Senior Vice President Corporate & Legal & General Counsel**