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Committee Secretary  
Senate Select Committee into the Political Influence of Donations

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Sent via email: [politicaldonations.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:politicaldonations.sen@aph.gov.au)

Attention: Committee Secretary

Woodside is pleased to provide comment to the Senate Select Committee regarding its Inquiry into the Political Influence of Donations.

Woodside seeks to have open and constructive relationships with the governments of all countries where we have a presence. As such, Woodside may engage in policy debate and share our views on policy matters when related to our business and activities. We believe that the exchange of information and opinion is essential to informed decision-making.

The most substantial contribution Woodside makes in regard to policy debate is the time involved in providing submissions by our Executive, relevant subject matter expert or other personnel in response to government requests for submissions and parliamentary enquiries. For example, this letter represents this Company's 21<sup>st</sup> submission for the 2017 calendar year. This has included submissions that Woodside has made, or is in the process of making, on a range of state and federal issues from offshore petroleum fiscal arrangements, trade and investment in Africa, foreign bribery laws and an Australian deferred prosecution agreement scheme, energy security, offshore resource management, temporary migration visas, climate change, transparency of offshore environmental regulation, and regulation of modern slavery.

In 2016, the Woodside Petroleum Ltd Board strengthened its position on not donating to campaign funds for any political party, politician or candidate for public office in any country. All other political contributions including memberships of party political networking forums are regarded as political contributions and require Board approval.

Woodside subscribes to attend party political events where those events allow for discussion on policy issues related to our business and we recognise there is a cost to undertaking such events which, unlike parliamentary or government enquiries such as this one, are not funded by the taxpayer. One of several ways in which we achieve this in Australia is by subscribing to annual memberships of the Federal Liberal Party Australian Business Network and the Australian Labor Party Federal Business Forum, and from time to time Woodside attends conferences hosted by state and federal parties. This allows Woodside to understand the policy environment within which we operate and provides the opportunity to contribute and inform policy dialogue pertaining to our business. In addition to engaging through such memberships, Woodside achieves similar objectives through subscriptions to non-party aligned organisations such as industry associations and issue specific advocacy groups.

As required under the Commonwealth Act 1918, in November 2016, Woodside disclosed, via the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), political contributions for the period ending 30 June 2016. This included A\$220,000 for membership of the Federal Liberal and Labor business forums and A\$30,480 on other political networking events.

Woodside's political contributions for the financial year 2016/2017 will be submitted to the AEC in November 2017 and published by the AEC in February 2018.

In addition, to reporting via the AEC, Woodside's Code of Conduct, Corporate Governance Statement 2016 and Sustainable Development Report 2016, all include details of our approach to political contributions and are available on our website: <http://www.woodside.com.au>

I trust this submission is of assistance to the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely



**Michael Abbott**  
Senior Vice President Corporate and Legal