



Woodside Energy Ltd.

ACN 005 482 986

Mia Yellagonga

11 Mount Street

Perth WA 6000

Australia

T +61 8 9348 4000

F +61 8 9214 2777

www.woodside.com.au

Please direct all responses/queries to:

Andrew Decet

T: +61 8 9348 3702

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Committee Secretary
Foreign Affairs and Aid Subcommittee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

Dear Subcommittee

Response to: Public hearing request to examine recent developments in Myanmar

Woodside welcomes the opportunity to provide a written submission to the Subcommittee as we have watched with growing concern the situation in Myanmar.

Woodside reiterates that we strongly condemn human rights violations and we find the reports of violence against the Myanmar people participating in peaceful protests deeply distressing.

The submission below reflects Woodside's current operational status and position with respect to activities in Myanmar.

Woodside in Myanmar

Overview

Woodside has been operating in Myanmar since 2013 and is regarded as a responsible investor in the country.

Woodside currently has interests in five offshore Myanmar blocks, covering an area of approximately 27,500 square kilometres. One of these is a development consideration (see A-6 Development section below), the other four are exploration permits (refer to Image A).

To date, we have safely completed four drilling campaigns, with the most recent campaign completed in March 2021.

We have also maintained a significant social investment portfolio in Myanmar since we commenced our activities. The current portfolio is largely focused on capacity and capability activities in Yangon and the Ayeyarwady Region with achievements to date including:

- Providing over 1300 children across 30 villages in Ayeyarwady access to the Myanmar Early Childhood Care and Development program.
- Building local business standards through cooperation with Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB) - Responsible Investment Working Group.
- Providing practical training courses at the Uniteam Training Centre for Petroleum Engineering undergraduates from Yangon Technological University.
- Funding six professional development courses over three years (2018 – 2020) for students and graduate professionals at Yangon Technological University.
- Enhancing marine science capability through sponsorship of Flora and Fauna International to work together with the Marine Science Departments of Patheingyi University, Mawlamyaing University, Sittoung University and Myeik University.
- Donating US\$60,000 to support the Myanmar Red Cross to provide health and other essential items in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and recent events.
- Donating A\$50,000 to Save the Children to support humanitarian relief efforts in Bangladesh in late 2017. At the same time Woodside donated A\$50,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross to support its work providing shelter, food and clean water in Rakhine, Myanmar.

Woodside conducts activities in Myanmar in joint venture with other organisations and does not have any direct commercial arrangements with any Tatmadaw-connected organisations.

A-6 Development concept

Following the successful appraisal drilling of the Shwe Yee Htun field in 2018, Woodside had been progressing the A-6 Development concept. These activities included technical and marketing activities ahead of a decision to enter the front-end engineering and design (FEED) phase. Activities were being completed to define the potential project and inform future decisions.

The joint venture participants are Total E&P Myanmar and MPRL E&P (Myanmar Petroleum Resources Limited Exploration & Production) Pte Ltd, which is not a government entity.

Response to Terms of Reference

Woodside has watched with growing concern the events following 1 February 2021 and we continue to support the people of Myanmar.

For now, our international employees based in Myanmar have been relocated and we remain in contact with our employees who are Myanmar nationals.

Woodside does not have any producing assets in Myanmar, or any projects that have reached a final investment decision, nor do we currently generate any revenue. Until we see the outlook for Myanmar and its political stability has improved, Woodside will keep all business decisions under review, including considering any guidance from the Australian Government on economic engagement.

As a responsible foreign investor, our conduct is guided by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and other relevant international standards. Up until Myanmar was suspended by the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Board, Woodside was complying with all relevant Myanmar EITI reporting requirements.

We will continue to work with industry partners and stakeholders to foster a business environment that respects human rights and supports progress towards openness and democracy in Myanmar.

In support of this position, Woodside signed the MCRB's Statement by Concerned Businesses Operating in Myanmar. Refer to link: <https://www.myanmar-responsiblebusiness.org/news/statement-concerned-businesses.html>

Conclusion

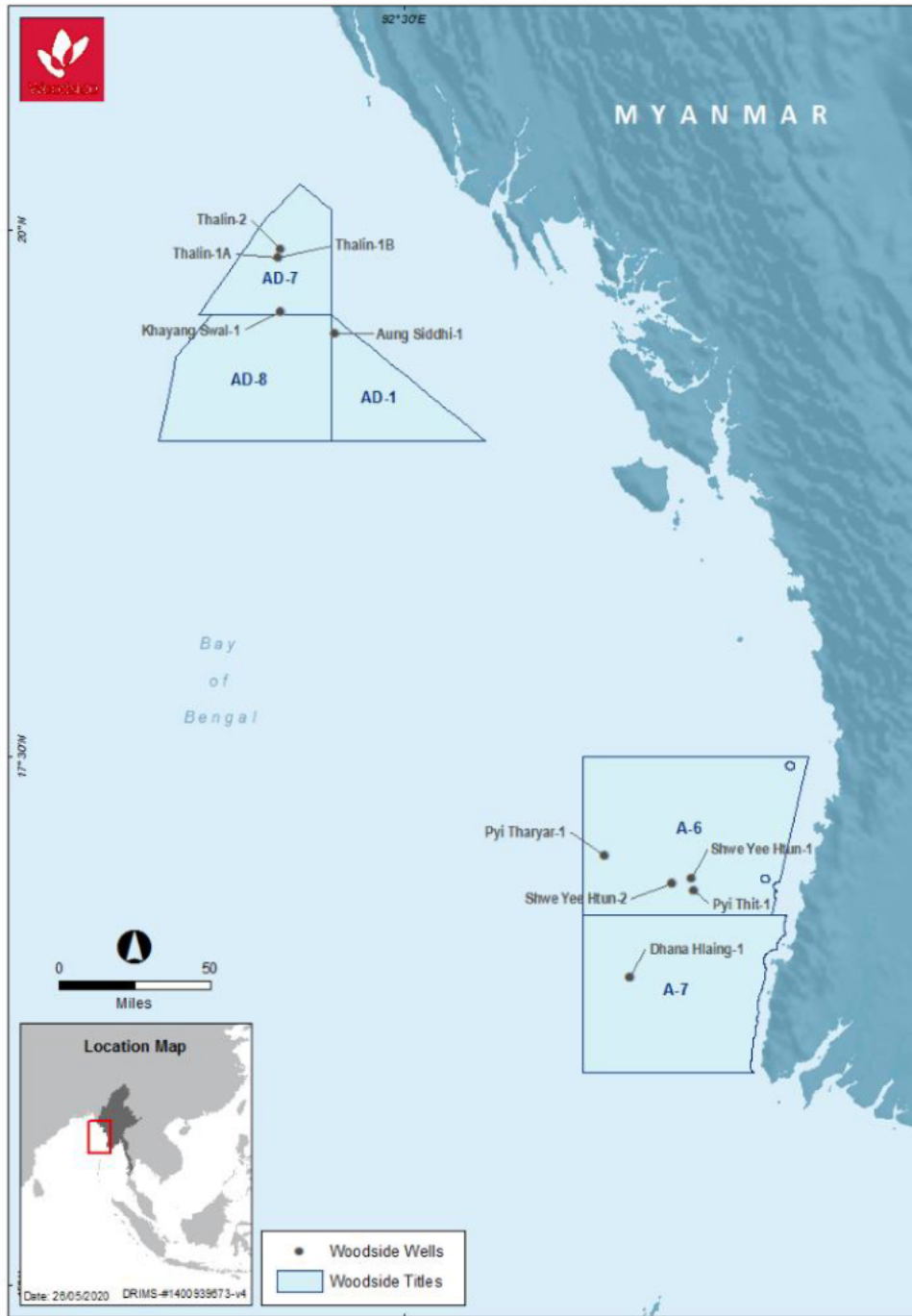
Woodside's thoughts remain with the families and communities of Myanmar at this time and we look forward to a peaceful return to democracy.

Regards



Peter Coleman
Chief Executive Office and Managing Director | Woodside

Image A:



Map of Woodside's current offshore titles and wells drilled.