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OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE FINANCE

18 January 2006

Securities and Exchange Commission  
Office of International Corporate Finance  
450 Fifth Street N.W.  
Washington DC 20549  
United States of America



SUPPL

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: WOODSIDE PETROLEUM LTD. - EXEMPTION FILE NO. 82.2280**

In accordance with Rule 12g 3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, we enclose a copy of the following Stock Exchange Releases which has/have recently been filed with the Australian Stock Exchange ("ASX") in relation to:

- Comments regarding Mauritania media speculation, lodged with the Australian Stock Exchange on 18 January 2006.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could return by fax (+61 8 9214 2728) a copy of this letter as proof of receipt.

Yours faithfully  
WOODSIDE PETROLEUM LTD.

Rebecca Sims  
Compliance Officer



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THOMSON  
FINANCIAL

*Handwritten: Dec/30*

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**ASX ANNOUNCEMENT**  
(ASX: WPL)

WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2006  
11:30AM (WST)

**MEDIA**

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**COMMENTS REGARDING MAURITANIA MEDIA SPECULATION**

Woodside Petroleum Ltd. is aware of media speculation about the reported detention of Mauritania's former minister for energy and petroleum in connection with agreements signed with foreign companies.

Woodside's wholly-owned subsidiary, Woodside Mauritania Pty. Ltd., as operator of several local production sharing contracts (PSCs) is continuously and routinely engaged in discussions with the Mauritanian Government on behalf of its joint venture participants. Such discussions are common in the oil and gas industry as joint ventures move from early stage exploration to production and often involve amendments and clarifications to PSCs.

Amendments and clarifications to Woodside-operated PSCs were negotiated with the former minister and his department and approved by the Mauritanian Government and the Mauritanian Parliament before becoming law in 2005.

Woodside is operator of the Chinguetti Project, which remains on schedule to produce first oil in February 2006. Other exploration and development activities are also unaffected.