NSW State Development Committee – Inquiry into a hydrogen industry in NSW

Question 1:

The Hon. TAYLOR MARTIN: I will pick up from there. Professor, you talk about mixing with gas. Do you know of any instances where it is mixed with diesel to try and reduce the use of diesel?

Professor ZELINSKY: We have actually got some projects going with local businesses, and certainly Ampcontrol ResTech is a company that we work with. They have a partnership with the Western Australian energy producer. I will have to take the name on notice. Horizon Energy, I think it is. And they are looking at actually producing small power plants that are in remote areas of the State that are not on the grid. They have been traditionally running on diesel and they are trying to switch them over to renewables such as solar. They obviously will not have the capacity when there are issues with solar not being available 24/7. They have now been looking at trying to use ammonia and potentially hydrogen. That is long-term development that is based on industrial leadership by that company who are based in the Hunter.

Answer 1:

This answer was provided to the Committee during the hearing.

Professor Zelinsky's statement above notes a partnership exploring options for integrating hydrogen in small power plants for off-grid sites traditionally powered by diesel fuel. Ampcontrol and their subsidiary, ResTech, and Horizon Energy are the key organisations in this partnership.

The question was further addressed by Professor Alan Broadfoot during the hearing. His relevant remarks are below, excerpted from the hearing transcript:

Professor BROADFOOT: We have a company here in the audience, Global Hydro Power. They are looking at blending hydrogen into existing diesel using it as pure hydrogen. That way you have a problem with reducing the hydrogen on an existing vehicle using the electrolysers with insurances but you can blend it through. That is the technology that has now been proven and been applied. We are looking at various applications for that.