

**Submission
No 19**

INQUIRY INTO DEVELOPMENT OF A HYDROGEN INDUSTRY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Lake Macquarie City Council

Date Received: 25 February 2021



25 February 2021

The Hon. Taylor Martin MLC
Chair, Standing Committee on State Development
(submitted online)

Dear Mr Martin

Subject: Staff submission - Inquiry into the development of a hydrogen industry in NSW

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Standing Committee on the State Development's Inquiry into the development of a hydrogen industry in NSW. This submission has been developed by staff from Lake Macquarie City Council.

Staff believe that Lake Macquarie City and the Hunter region represent one of Australia's most strategic locations to establish a sustainable and multi-faceted hydrogen industry. The region's attributes present several opportunities across hydrogen production, transport, export and feedstock sectors. Furthermore, the region's existing energy infrastructure and workforce make it well suited for the transition to alternative energy sources, such as hydrogen, hydro and battery storage, which would support the NSW Government's Net Zero Plan.

Lake Macquarie City is well located, sitting at the mid-point on the eastern seaboard with access via major road, rail and air connections to the Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne markets – including access to international ports. Attachment 1 provides some more detail about the region's attributes.

New opportunities are already being realised in the region, with Origin Energy's recent announcement to build Australia's largest battery (700MW) at Eraring Power Station in Lake Macquarie. This is in addition to the State and Federally co-funded feasibility study into the adaptive reuse of Centennial Coal's existing underground mine at Fassifern, Lake Macquarie for a pumped hydro (600MW) project.

Council staff request State and Federal policymakers give greater consideration to the contributions local government could make in supporting a hydrogen industry in NSW. For example, local government could:

- develop and maintain supporting infrastructure, connecting local businesses with industry
- become early adopters of hydrogen technologies for specialised uses, acting as a platform to scale up the hydrogen industry

Our Ref: F2019/00235/13 Your Ref:

126-138 Main Road T 02 4921 0333
Speers Point NSW 2284 E council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au
Box 1906 HRMC NSW 2310 W lakemac.com.au

 lakemac  lakemacity  ourlakemac

- bring together industry and government partners to develop and implement large-scale projects
- devise 'hydrogen-friendly' and fast-tracked project assessments.

Council staff would like to emphasise to the Committee the ability for local government to act as both a platform to pilot technology and a platform to scale up technology. For example, councils exploring hydrogen vehicles (e.g. garbage trucks) could partner with industry to provide refuelling stations in areas that could be utilised by other hydrogen vehicles (e.g. long-haul freight). The gradual spread of these facilities could provide the foundation of a broader hydrogen fuel network, while also adding to the reduction of costs associated with hydrogen infrastructure.

To assist local government in supporting the establishment of a hydrogen industry, the NSW Government could develop model policy tools, finance dedicated hydrogen-policy positions within Joint Organisations/councils, or incentivise councils to improve through grant programs.

Should you require further information regarding this submission, please feel free to contact me on .

Yours sincerely

Morven Cameron
Chief Executive Officer