

HYDROGEN INDUSTRY — PROJECTS

Statement by Minister for Hydrogen Industry

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Hydrogen Industry) [1.10 pm]: The past months have seen an acceleration in global partnerships between Western Australian hydrogen projects and significant global investors and offtakers.

In May a partnership memorandum of understanding was signed between Infinite Green Energy and global tech giant Samsung C&T Corporation to develop and build the Arrowsmith hydrogen plant, 30 kilometres south of Dongara. The plant, powered by wind and solar, is forecast to produce up to 100 000 tonnes of green hydrogen a year for domestic and export markets. In June 2023, Infinite Green Energy and Samsung C&T welcomed renewable energy company Doral Energy Group as final development and construction partner for the 10-megawatt MEG HP1 hydrogen project in Northam, which is expected to produce up to four tonnes a day of green hydrogen for the medium and heavy transport industry. During the same month, Danish investment group Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners acquired a 26.67 per cent stake in renewables developer CWP Global's hydrogen and ammonia mega-projects portfolio, several of which are located right here in Western Australia.

In July we saw the finalisation of an MOU between Western Green Energy Hub, with project partners InterContinental Energy, CWP Global and Mirning Green Energy Ltd, and Korea Electric Power Corporation, paving the way for the joint development of what is likely to be one of the largest proposed green hydrogen projects near Eucla, in the goldfields–Esperance region. It is expected to generate around 50 gigawatts of wind and solar power, producing around 3.5 million tonnes of green hydrogen a year, for supply to both domestic and international customers in power generation, shipping fuel, minerals processing and manufacturing.

Earlier this month, the Cook government commenced negotiations with a major South Korean renewable energy consortium, comprising Progressive Green Solutions, Samsung C&T and Korea Midland Power Co Ltd—KOMIPO—to establish a green ammonia plant at the Narngulu industrial estate in Geraldton. The facility is expected to produce up to one million tonnes of green ammonia per annum using renewable hydrogen and help support the decarbonisation of power generation assets in South Korea, with the first shipments expected in 2027. This renewable energy cluster is expected to complement the state's planned hydrogen hub at Oakajee.

International partnerships like these are vital to the delivery of the 2030 vision under the Western Australian renewable hydrogen strategy and the future opportunities that come with it. They underpin the progressive maturing of the local hydrogen market and associated consolidation of investment capital in the industry. The Cook government is committed to supporting the development of the renewable hydrogen sector as we move towards diversifying and decarbonising our economy and to supporting our key trading partners to meet their emissions reduction targets.