



IPHE Country Update February 2024: Australia

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Covered Period	November 2023 to February 2024

1. New Initiatives, Programs, and Policies on Hydrogen and Fuel Cells

The Australian Government continues to progress important work under our Guarantee of Origin (GO scheme) certification scheme (to certify H₂ and its derivatives), the Hydrogen Headstart Program and the National Hydrogen Strategy Review.

- We have completed public consultation on the GO scheme which is informing the development of legislation.
- Work on the National Hydrogen Strategy review is progressing rapidly to ensure Australia remains on the path to becoming a global hydrogen leader, and to support the decarbonisation of Australian industries.
- Six applicants have been shortlisted and invited to submit a full application in the next stage of the \$2 billion Hydrogen Headstart Program.

2. Hydrogen and Fuel Cell R&D Update

In December 2023, the Australian Government opened the Australia-UK Renewable Hydrogen Innovation Partnerships Program to support research, development and demonstration of renewable hydrogen technologies and its applications for industry and transport decarbonisation.

The Joint Call will support the ambitions of Australia and the UK to meet their industrial decarbonisation targets. It may also lead to future trade opportunities. It will leverage co-contributions from Australian and UK proponents, as well as UK government funding. \$10 million in funding will be available for Australian projects over two years. Funding will be matched by Innovate UK to support UK partners on these joint projects.

Supported projects will include, but are not limited to:

- the production of renewable hydrogen and its derivatives
- the use of hydrogen in hard-to-abate industry (iron and steelmaking, chemicals) and heavy transport sectors.

3. Demonstration, Deployments, and Workforce Developments Update

In February 2024, the Australian and West Australian Governments announced a \$140 million funding agreement to enable the construction of the Pilbara Hydrogen



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Hub under the Regional Hydrogen Hubs Program. This investment will help build infrastructure to support hydrogen exports and renewable energy production, as well as fund activities for a Clean Energy Training and Research Institute.

In January 2024, the Australian Government announced funding to develop the Townsville Region Hydrogen Hub in north Queensland. The initial stage of the hub will produce 800 tonnes of green hydrogen (renewable hydrogen) per year and will ramp up to around 3,000 tonnes for domestic supply, and ultimately in excess of 150,000 tonnes for export. The project has over \$137 million of combined investment. The Commonwealth's contribution is up to \$70 million, including \$20.7 million from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency. The remaining funding is being sourced from industry and the German Government.

In January 2024, the Australian Government announced \$70 million in funding to develop the Bell Bay Hydrogen Hub in northern Tasmania. This investment will help build "Common User Infrastructure," necessary to create a hydrogen hub, such as hydrogen storage, transport and export infrastructure. The project will be delivered by a consortium of partners, is scheduled to be operational by 2028 and will facilitate the production of 45,000 tonnes of renewable hydrogen a year.

In November 2023, ARENA announced \$1.3 million to APA Group (APA) and Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy and Fertilisers (WesCEF) for the \$3.5 million 'Parmelia Green Hydrogen Project – Feasibility Study'. The study will progress investigations into the development of a large-scale renewable hydrogen production facility supported by purpose built renewable generation south of Kwinana, WA. This hydrogen would be transported via a 43-kilometre section of APA's existing Parmelia Gas Pipeline to WesCEF's ammonia production facilities at the Kwinana Industrial Area south of Perth.

4. Events and Solicitations

The Australian Government – through the Australian Trade and Investment Commission – is supporting the Asia-Pacific Hydrogen Summit which will be held in Brisbane, Queensland on 12-13 September 2024. This event brings together global hydrogen leaders to meet with the region's policy makers and energy stakeholders. It is expected more than 3,000 industry leaders and 150 exhibitors will attend to showcase the latest technology, discuss new policies in place and analyse upcoming projects in the hydrogen space.

5. Investments: Government and Collaborative Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Funding

Since November 2023, the Australian Government has progressed hydrogen specific funding under the following:

- Hydrogen Headstart: Six applicants have been shortlisted and invited to submit a full application in the next stage of the \$2 billion Hydrogen Headstart Program. Shortlisted applicants have until 27 June 2024 to submit their full application. The Australian Government intends to announce funding recipients in late 2024. This investment will help bridge the commercial gap for early hydrogen production projects.



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- UK Renewable Hydrogen Innovation Partnerships: Grants funding of up to \$10 million over 3 years for hydrogen research, development and demonstration projects in partnership with UK companies. Applications for grants closed on 19 January 2024.

6. Regulations, Codes & Standards, and Safety Update

The Australian Government continues to progress work under the National Hydrogen Regulatory Review. This initiative supports development of Australia's hydrogen industry by providing greater clarity around regulatory pathways.

The next stage of the review involves developing National Codes of Best Practice for the following topics:

- Hydrogen Production Safety.
- Ammonia Production Safety.
- Hydrogen Refuelling Stations.
- Hydrogen Appliances, Plant and Equipment Compliance.
- Ammonia Appliances, Plant and Equipment Compliance.

Once published, the National Codes of Best Practice will provide clear guidance for industry and regulators alike regarding regulatory pathways for hydrogen and ammonia projects.