



## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELLS IN THE ECONOMY

### IPHE Country Update Jun 2025 – Nov 2025:

#### Australia

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

On 3 November 2025, the Guarantee of Origin (GO) scheme became operational. The GO scheme is Australia's a voluntary emissions and other product attributes certification framework for renewable electricity and hydrogen from electrolysis.

The GO scheme is designed to align with international best practices and is expanding to include other hydrogen productions pathways, derivatives, and other commodities such as low carbon fuels, green metal and biomethane.

The GO scheme is a cornerstone of the Future Made in Australia plan and informs eligibility for accessing government incentives including the Hydrogen Production Tax Incentive and Hydrogen Headstart.

In October 2025, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) opened Round 2 of the Hydrogen Headstart Program, with up to AU\$2 billion in funding available. This round builds on lessons from the first and focuses on:

- Supporting large-scale renewable hydrogen projects through production credits.
- Targeting priority use cases such as green ammonia, iron and steel, alumina, and long-distance transport (aviation and shipping).
- Encouraging innovation in plant design, electrolyser efficiency, and flexible operations to reduce production costs.
- Promoting community benefit principles, including engagement with First Nations communities.

Hydrogen Headstart Round 2 is a key mechanism to bridge the commercial gap for first-mover projects and catalyse Australia's role in global hydrogen supply chains.

#### 2. Hydrogen and Fuel Cell R&D Update

On 4 July 2025, Orica's Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub received up to AU\$432 million under Hydrogen Headstart Round 1 to support decarbonisation of ammonia and explosives production. The project will use a 50 MW electrolyser to produce up to 12 tonnes of green hydrogen daily.



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### 3. Demonstration, Deployments, and Workforce Developments Update

Japanese energy company ENEOS began construction of a AU\$200 million plant in Brisbane. The facility will produce up to 680 kg of green hydrogen per day from 2026, using methylcyclohexane (MCH) for safe transport to Japan. The project will create 100 jobs and builds on earlier pilot work.

The Viva Hydrogen project has established Australia's first publicly accessible hydrogen refuelling station at the Viva Energy Hub in Geelong. The facility includes a 2.5-megawatt electrolyser that produces renewable hydrogen using recycled water. It supports a fleet of hydrogen-powered heavy vehicles. The site also features ultra-fast electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The project received \$34 million in funding from ARENA and \$1 million from the Victorian Government.

### 4. Events and Solicitations

Asia-Pacific Hydrogen Summit & Exhibition 2025 (20–21 November, Sydney): Australia's largest hydrogen event, featuring over 3,000 global leaders, 100+ exhibitors, and high-level government participation. Key themes included hydrogen trade, investment, and technology innovation.

The Australian Hydrogen Research Conference (AHRC2026) will be held from 16–19 February 2026 in Melbourne. As the flagship event of the Australian Hydrogen Research Network, AHRC2026 brings together researchers, industry leaders, and government stakeholders to share the latest developments in hydrogen science and technology.

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

On 16 October 2025, Australian Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen and Indian Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi jointly launched the India–Australia Green Hydrogen Taskforce Recommendation Report in New Delhi. This milestone marked a deepening of bilateral cooperation under the India–Australia Renewable Energy Partnership (REP).

The Taskforce was established by the Prime Ministers of both countries to identify practical ways to grow their respective green hydrogen industries through collaboration. It brought together experts from government, industry, and research institutions.

Key Recommendations from the Taskforce Report include:

- Technology collaboration: Joint development and deployment of hydrogen technologies, including electrolysers and fuel cells.
- Supply chain resilience: Strengthening bilateral supply chains for hydrogen production and distribution infrastructure.
- Workforce development: Coordinated training programs and skills exchanges to build a hydrogen-ready workforce.



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- Knowledge sharing: Establishing platforms for sharing best practices, standards, and regulatory approaches.
- Investment facilitation: Supporting two-way investment in hydrogen projects and enabling access to financing mechanisms.

This collaboration builds on the broader REP framework and aligns with both countries' ambitions to lead in the global clean energy transition.

The Australian Government has also conducted a public consultation on the Australia-Germany H2Global Joint Tender, a €400 million initiative—approximately 660 million Australian dollars (AUD) and 428 million US dollars (USD)—to support the development of international renewable hydrogen markets. The scheme, jointly funded by both governments, will be delivered by the Hydrogen Intermediary Company (HINT.CO) using a double-sided auction model that connects Australian hydrogen producers with European buyers. The consultation focused on key design elements such as eligibility criteria, contract structure, and auction processes, aiming to inform the final design.

### **6. Regulations, Codes & Standards, and Safety Update**

Work continues on the Australian National Hydrogen Regulatory Guidebooks, with stakeholder consultation underway. These guidebooks aim to improve regulatory transparency and safety outcomes for hydrogen production and refuelling.