

Ms Anna Collyer
Chair
Australian Energy Market Commission

Via email: james.tyrrell@aemc.gov.au

20 June 2022

Dear Ms Collyer

RE: EM00042 – Review into extending the regulatory frameworks to hydrogen & renewable gases

The Queensland Electricity Users Network (QEUN) appreciates the opportunity to provide a consumer perspective to the AEMC's Review into extending the regulatory frameworks to hydrogen and renewable gases.

The QEUN is a consumer advocate representing small business and residential consumers with a particular emphasis on regional consumers. We advocate for affordable and reliable electricity from a resilient National Electricity Market where the pace of the transition to a renewable energy future is not at the expense of the economy, jobs or reasonable living standards.

The QEUN met with staff from the Australian Energy Market Commission in May 2022 with further follow up communications. The meeting and communications form the basis of QEUN's submission and are summarised as follows:

- QEUN notes the importance of establishing a green hydrogen gas reserve.
- QEUN also notes the importance and urgency of AEMO establishing a hydrogen database similar to AEMO's Generation Information Page. The QEUN does not support AEMO using the CSIRO HyResource database as a substitute for an AEMO controlled hydrogen database. The CSIRO HyResource database contains only basic information. It is envisaged the AEMO hydrogen database would be a spreadsheet that can be filtered and would include information based on the same commitment status criteria as AEMO's Generation Information Page. The hydrogen database would also marry electrolyser capacity by port location and by the publicly stated intentions of green hydrogen exporters.
- QEUN is of the opinion that hydrogen export companies are already buying the best wind farm projects with an economic "night" wind resource.
- QEUN believes that the gas apocalypse will escalate to an electricity apocalypse if Australian green hydrogen is not available for Australian gas-fired power stations.
- At present, there is no mechanism to prevent Australia's green hydrogen from powering the economy, jobs and transport systems of Asia and Europe. QEUN believes Australia needs a green hydrogen reserve to ensure there is hydrogen available for the 9 GW of gas-fired generation stated as required for a reliable and secure national grid in AEMO's Draft 2022 Integrated System Plan.

- QEUN noted that the 'bush fire' we are putting out now is nothing like the fire front coming our way when green hydrogen exports begin. If Twiggy Forrest can manufacture his first electrolyser from his Gladstone plant by early 2023 then night wind projects to run the electrolysers 24/7 365 days a year need to be purchased and built now. There is no use chasing the horse once it's bolted. Currently, there is a perfect opportunity to discuss a green hydrogen gas reserve before it's too late.
- When asked about the current gas shortage, QEUN noted that the federal government is in the news saying there is nothing they can do at present about gas shortages. What Australia is experiencing now is nothing to what could happen if Australia does not thwart moves to use Australia's best night wind resources to fuel the lofty ambitions of Australian and international green hydrogen exporters.
- QEUN wishes to understand what, if anything, is happening on a green hydrogen gas reserve for Queensland and all states in the National Electricity Market

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a small energy consumer perspective, in particular a regional consumers' perspective since the emerging green hydrogen industry will largely be located in regional Australia.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jennifer Brownie'.

Jennifer Brownie

Coordinator

Queensland Electricity Users Network