



9 January 2020

Hydrogen, Energy Policy
Department of State Growth

Submitted by email: hydrogen@stategrowth.tas.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Tasmanian Renewable Hydrogen Action Plan

Origin Energy Limited (Origin) welcomes the opportunity to provide initial comments on the Tasmanian Renewable Hydrogen Action Plan.

Origin supports the development of state strategies for hydrogen and is interested in the opportunities hydrogen will provide in Australia over the next decade. Our interest is primarily in the potential that “green” hydrogen has for both domestic and export markets. We view the likely excess of renewable energy generation at peak times as an opportunity to fuel the production of hydrogen at potentially low cost. With hydropower also providing renewable baseload power generation, Tasmania has a natural advantage.

As a truly integrated energy company which includes both electricity and natural gas operations, as well as already exporting energy to potential hydrogen markets, we believe we are uniquely placed to explore the opportunities provided by a hydrogen economy.

In response to the Tasmania Draft Action Plan, Origin makes the following comments:

1. Origin supports Tasmania’s commitment to renewable hydrogen. Commercial viability of renewable hydrogen relies heavily on the cost and profile of electricity input. The existence of renewable baseload generation plus growing wind farms and pumped storage, as well as connection to the NEM, makes Tasmania a strong candidate for large scale green hydrogen production.
2. A balance between meeting domestic industry and community needs and accessing export opportunities is important. Tasmania’s draft plan identifies this with, for example, the Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone, existing sustainable recycled water sources, the potential of oxygen for the aquaculture industry and trialling hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. Origin would support a requirement for proposed export projects to demonstrate how they would help also build a domestic hydrogen industry.
3. Origin notes the longer time frames set out in the National Strategy than those in the Tasmanian Action Plan. This may require Tasmania to be prepared to take a leading role in developing regulatory frameworks (e.g. around access to land, water, pipeline operations and safety). It may also require Tasmania to push for shorter timeframes at a national level for items such as

the National Accreditation Scheme to ensure an aligned understanding on what is included in the definition of renewable hydrogen.

4. The Draft Action Plan refers to accessible and abundant fresh water for electrolysis. Origin supports the use of sustainable water sources when producing hydrogen and believes this is important to ensure community support for an emerging industry. It would be appropriate, therefore, to see funding or support in the in the Draft Action Plan which encourages the use of sustainable or recycled water sources.
5. Finally, Origin is gratified to see the commitment from the Tasmanian government for the establishment in the form of ambitious time frames, the establishment of the Tasmanian Renewable Hydrogen Fund and other proposed measures including concessional electricity pricing and establishment support.

Origin would be interested in being involved in further consultation and would be willing to discuss either the Action Plan or our comments above, should that be of use. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this submission further, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F Underhill', with a stylized, cursive style.

Felicity Underhill
General Manager Strategy Execution
Origin Energy Limited