

UPDATE #8

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NET ZERO INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION PROGRAM

Matt Kean, NSW Minister for Energy and Environment visited Port Kembla on the 8 March 2021, releasing details of the \$750 million [Net Zero Industry and Innovation Program](#) and confirming Port Kembla as a hydrogen hub. One element of this Program is \$70 million for hydrogen hub development. After visiting Port Kembla, Minister Kean held an industry roundtable at the University of Wollongong's Innovation Campus with key stakeholders from industry, research and government in attendance.

COREGAS

Coregas have secured a \$500,000 grant to establish a hydrogen refuelling station at their Port Kembla site.

<https://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2021-03-19/port-kembla-first-hydrogen-truck-gets-green-light/13263384>

Australia's first hydrogen trucks to come to Port Kembla after landmark project gets green light

ABC Illawarra / By Tim Fernandez



The first hydrogen trucks and refuelling station will be based at Coregas's facility in Port Kembla. (Supplied: Coregas)

The first heavy vehicles to be powered by hydrogen in Australia will be rolled out in Port Kembla after the New South Wales government approved funding for a landmark project.

Key points:

- Port Kembla will be home to Australia's first hydrogen refuelling station and heavy vehicle fleet
- NSW government has given hydrogen manufacturer Coregas \$500,000 to complete the project
- The facility could be set up within nine months

The largest producer of hydrogen in the country, Coregas, is behind the plan to acquire two hydrogen-powered prime movers and build a hydrogen refuelling facility at its Port Kembla plant.

The project was green-lit after it received half-a-million dollars in backing from the state government in the latest round of the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund.

The executive general manager of Coregas, Alan Watkins, said the funding could help get the pioneering project off the ground before the end of the year.



Alan Watkins believes the project is an important first step in the burgeoning hydrogen economy. *(Supplied: Coregas)*

"It is a contribution to a much bigger investment we have made to build a hydrogen refueller off the back of our hydrogen production in Port Kembla," he said.

"We are also going to run a small portion of our fleet as some of the first hydrogen heavy goods vehicles in Australia, hopefully within nine months.

"We think it will act as a catalyst in getting people thinking about hydrogen commercial vehicles."

Hydrogen hub 'first step'

NSW Environment Minister Matt Kean recently used Port Kembla as the backdrop for the unveiling of \$750 million worth of grants aimed at developing low emissions technologies.

Mr Kean also confirmed the port would be home to the first hydrogen hub in NSW.

"This is a first step in what Matt Kean described as Port Kembla becoming a hydrogen hub," Mr Watkins said.



Coregas believes the future is green hydrogen. (Supplied: Wesfarmers)

He said the refuelling station would be based near Coregas's hydrogen production plant at Port Kembla but eventually the facility would be available to other early adopters in the region.

"Port Kembla is one of the very few places in Australia which has hydrogen readily available from our facility," Mr Watkins said.

"The facility will be available to other users and we are in early conversations with a number of companies now that we have received the funding and will be going ahead with the project.

"There are other users in the Illawarra such as bus users or local distribution businesses that could refuel at one location."

Emissions halved

The project is likely to have broad implications for decarbonising the road freight industry in Australia.

Coregas will be making data from the project available and expects converting trucks from diesel to hydrogen will halve its vehicle emissions.

The company is currently using fossil fuels to produce hydrogen but believes the increased availability of renewables means cleaner energy options are becoming more viable.

"We will substantially reduce emissions at the use point," Mr Watkins said.

"We are also in some conversations about switching to biogas rather than natural gas for the production.

"Future investments under Matt Kean's hydrogen hub vision are much more likely to be in the Green Hydrogen space.

"The future of hydrogen is renewable-based electricity with recycled water to produce hydrogen, which is very green, and those opportunities are certainly there in the Illawarra."

Regards

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