

3 March 2026

Greetings hydrogen hipsters from a warm but always cool Port Kembla! This **Port Kembla Hydrogen Hub Update - Edition #36** contains information on the following key projects and initiatives:

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## Renewables Manufacturing Showcase

5 March 2026



The Illawarra Shoalhaven region is at the forefront of Australia’s energy transition. It is leveraging its unique array of manufacturing expertise and capabilities to provide the steel, components and equipment to support this transition. The purpose of the Renewables Manufacturing Showcase is to provide delegates with an overview of the following capability areas:

- Wind turbine gearbox servicing and repair
- Wind tower and electricity transmission components
- Solar farm components
- Transmission line coupling technology
- Robotic welding technology

This will be achieved by site visits to BlueScope Hub, Orrcon Tube Mill, David Brown Santasalo and UOW’s Centre for Intelligent Fabrication as well as hearing from companies such as Streamlined Energy at the Showcase Luncheon.



The event will attract delegates from across industry and government who are involved in Renewable Energy Zone procurement, policy and programs and is sponsored by the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (ISJO), Invest Wollongong, NSW Government and the Port Kembla Hydrogen Hub.

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## Data centres urged to BYO clean energy, train workers

26 February 2026

[Data centres urged to BYO clean energy, train workers | Illawarra Mercury | Wollongong, NSW](#)

Unions and green groups want data centres to meet their enormous power needs by building more renewable energy capacity. Providing mandatory apprentice training to prevent a workforce drain and responsibly using water supplies also feature in the eight-point plan endorsed by the Electrical Trade Union, the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Clean Energy Council and other groups. Their requests have been put to the federal government ahead of data centre development guidelines on energy, water and other matters that are anticipated to be released within weeks.



Image: ETU national secretary Michael Wright says data centres risk "siphoning" skills. (Mick Tsikas/AAP PHOTOS)

Australia has become a preferred destination to host the AI boom but questions have been levelled at the sizeable energy and water usage needed for the computing power. Without the right policy settings, data centres risked "siphoning" skills from national priorities like housing and the energy transition, ETU national secretary Michael Wright said. "Australia needs tens of thousands more electrical workers to wire our nation into the 21st century - including by building data centres," Mr Wright said. To protect the grid, the plan demands data centres be powered by 100 per cent additional renewable energy. Demand is expected to balloon from 1.35 gigawatts now to between 5-8 GW by 2035 on projections prepared in a Clean Energy Finance Corporation and Baringa report.

New approvals should come with clear community benefits, Climate Energy Finance director Tim Buckley said. "After all, the data centres can only be built leveraging the existing publicly funded water and grid infrastructure we have all paid for," Mr Buckley said. Climate and Energy Minister Chris Bowen said data centres should be building new solar and wind capacity and have "flexibility and redundancy" built in to protect the network. "People who are building data centres do need to build new energy to go with it, and that energy will be renewable," he told reporters on Wednesday. State and federal energy ministers were "of the same mind" and updates on the matter could be expected in May, he said.

The plan prepared by the Carbon Zero Initiative says that without the right policy architecture, the extra electricity demand could push up power prices, undermine national climate goals, and slow the development of emerging green industries. "Clear guardrails now will benefit households, communities and the grid," the initiative's project lead Alexander Hoysted said.

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## **Pump it up: former PM calls for action on hydropower**

10 February 2026

[Pump it up: former PM calls for action on hydropower | Illawarra Mercury | Wollongong, NSW](#)



Image: Malcolm Turnbull says hydroelectricity needs more support to help meet Australia's energy needs. Photo: Lukas Coch/AAP PHOTOS

Australia will fall short of its energy and environmental targets if it fails to support more hydroelectricity projects, a former leader has warned. The International Hydropower Association, led by former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull, issued the warning on Tuesday with the release of six recommendations to back the industry, which he said deserved bipartisan support. The announcement comes after the Australian Energy Market Operator called for significant investments in long-duration energy storage. The association's report, called [An Energy Secure Australia](#), found the nation needed to boost investments in large-capacity storage to support the transition to renewable power.

Pumped hydropower projects, like those in Wivenhoe in Queensland and Shoalhaven in NSW, can store significant amounts of renewable energy for hours at a time, releasing it to the grid when required. The market operator, in its [draft 2026 Integrated System Plan](#), forecasts Australia will need 27 gigawatts of storage by 2030, but the report found developments were not on track to meet the goal. "Without urgent targeted action to fix planning frameworks, market settings, approvals and investment risk, policy settings, Australia will fall short, risking higher prices, reduced reliability and delayed decarbonisation," the report said.

Changes to support investments in pumped hydro were essential, Mr Turnbull said, and deserved bipartisan state and federal support. "If we want a successful clean energy transition and affordable electricity for Australians, we're going to need more pumped storage," he said. "Pumped storage is the only proven technology that can store energy at the massive scale our grid requires."



Image: Malcolm Turnbull has long been a supporter of investment in hydroelectricity. (Alex Ellinghausen/AAP PHOTOS)

The report issued six recommendations to grow the industry, including a faster and more transparent approvals process, funding for early stage project developments, and state targets for long-duration storage. Added support from federal and state governments could accelerate developments, Mr Turnbull said, support other renewable energy projects and encourage private investments. "We have strong projects ready to go but they need the right policy settings and market signals to get built," he said. "The technology works, the economics work, what we need now is decision action."



Image: The Snowy 2.0 hydropower project is expected to deliver power by the end of 2028. (Alex Ellinghausen/AAP PHOTOS)

Australia's largest pumped hydropower project, Snowy 2.0 in NSW, is expected to deliver power by the end of 2028, although its \$12 billion cost is under review amid concerns it could blow out for a second time. The Tasmanian Tarraleah hydropower development also took another step forward on Tuesday, with Hydro Tasmania seeking industry proposals to build and equip the project.

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## Government admits it won't be issuing any licences for Illawarra offshore wind

24 January 2026

[Illawarra Offshore Wind Zone: Govt admits BlueFloat is gone. | Illawarra Mercury | Wollongong, NSW](#)



Image: Main picture; Alex O'Brien. Insert; MPs Alison Byrnes (left) and Carol Berry. Getty

The federal government has admitted it will not be issuing any feasibility licences for the Illawarra Offshore Wind Zone. BlueFloat Energy - which last year was the only developer remaining - has officially withdrawn its application for a feasibility licence, Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen said on Friday. This came more than six months after the Mercury reported BlueFloat's parent company Quantum Capital had decided to cease its Australian operations. BlueFloat's demise, we reported last July, meant the Illawarra Offshore Wind Zone had been sunk as no developers remained interested.

When asked for comment last July Mr Bowen's office said it would continue to help BlueFloat obtain funding for the South Pacific (Illawarra) project. But BlueFloat was clear, with a spokesman saying the company's priority had been the Gippsland Offshore Wind Zone, that Quantum would no longer fund that project, and that BlueFloat would leave Australia. BlueFloat's demise followed several months when it had asked for its feasibility licence assessment to be "paused" for the May 2025 federal election - but despite a landslide win to Labor did not ask for the process to resume.



Image: Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen. Picture by David Bellamy

BlueFloat's fortunes, and Quantum's view on offshore wind globally, had been affected by US President Donald Trump's fierce opposition to the energy technology, which has contributed to reduced confidence in the nascent industry. On Friday Mr Bowen said no projects would be licensed in the Illawarra - nor in Bass Strait. 'At this time, the Government will not be granting feasibility licences for generation projects in the Illawarra as no application was able to be progressed to licence award,' Mr Bowen's media release stated. "BlueFloat, a prospective proponent has withdrawn its application for a feasibility licence as it scales back its offshore wind operations around the world."



Image: Member for Cunningham Alison Byrnes (left) and Member for Whitlam Carol Berry at Port Kembla. Picture by Anna Warr

However, both zones provide opportunities to research and test different types of renewable energy technologies through R&D licences. On Friday the region's federal Labor MPs Alison Byrnes, Carol Berry and Fiona Phillips released a joint statement saying the Illawarra Offshore Wind Zone would remain open for interested developers.

"Many people across the Illawarra and South Coast will be disappointed by the news that BlueFloat Energy has formally withdrawn its application for a feasibility licence in the Illawarra Offshore Wind Zone," the MPs said. "While this is a setback, it is not the end of the Illawarra's clean energy future or the opportunities it can bring for local workers, local industry, and local businesses. "BlueFloat has made this decision based on commercial reasons, driven by global pressures including supply chain constraints, impacting the offshore wind industry worldwide. "BlueFloat, a global consortium, is withdrawing from the industry worldwide, including recently surrendering its feasibility licence in the Gippsland Offshore Wind Zone. "The declared offshore wind zone in the Illawarra remains in effect and could open for applications for feasibility licences again should there be competitive interest for development and will play a role in research and development until then." Their release came at 4pm on the Friday before the Australia Day long weekend.



Image: Alex O'Brien speaking to the NSW upper house committee on renewable energy zones. Picture by Adam McLean

It was also a year to the day since the Responsible Future Illawarra group, which campaigned against offshore wind, started asking Mr Bowen's office what had happened to BlueFloat. On Friday the group's president Alex O'Brien said six months ago the Illawarra community was being given assurances the project was being progressed. "As recently as July, BlueFloat was still saying it was seeking funding, local MPs were telling the community the government would continue to support the project, and the process was being described as progressing," he said. "The Illawarra has been through a long and, at times, painful process over this proposal. "While we raised concerns early, we would much rather this had been resolved transparently and collaboratively, without putting the community through so much uncertainty. "We support renewables in the right locations, and we acknowledge the Government's commitment to decarbonisation and energy security. "However, offshore wind does not work for the Illawarra, and it does not provide a credible pathway to decarbonise our steelworks or secure long-term industrial competitiveness for the region."

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## From steel city to solar hub? What new polling reveals about the Illawarra's energy stance

18 January 2026

[Illawarra's renewable energy support higher than national | Illawarra Mercury | Wollongong, NSW](#)



Image: A man in a fluoro vest stands in front of a wind turbine. Stock image from Canva.

New polling conducted by independent research firm 89 Degrees East found a majority of Illawarra residents support renewable energy. 69 per cent of Illawarra respondents to the poll supported a shift to renewable energy, while only 12 per cent opposed the move. The study was part of a larger poll which surveyed more than 4,700 Australians about [renewable energy](#), with 450 people from the Illawarra included.

Good for the Gong coordinator, Madeleine Holme, said the organisation was encouraged by the polling but wasn't surprised by it. "It kind of accords with the conversation that we've had in the community," she said. "We're really pleased to see that this community, the Illawarra, overwhelmingly backs the transition to renewable energy, and there's support for both the household level but also for large-scale renewable energy projects." "There's also overwhelming support for government investment, to ensure that it's not just households benefiting but also the local manufacturing industry is able to access clean, affordable, renewable energy."

Illawarra residents strongly believe the energy transition would benefit Australia, with 78 per cent believing there is a need for both small-scale renewables, e.g. rooftop solar and household batteries, as well as larger-scale projects like solar and wind farms. One of the questions in the polling, which was commissioned by Renew Australia for All, asked respondents to rate types of new large-scale energy infrastructure from very negative to very positive, however the Illawarra numbers for controversial topics, [like offshore wind](#) are not readily available.



Image: A solar panel going on a Thirroul roof. File picture by Kirk Gilmour

The polling also reveals that compared to Australians living in renewable energy zones (REZ) the Illawarra had a higher level of support for renewable energy, 62 per cent to 69 per cent respectively. Good for the Gong has been having "lots and lots" of conversations with people in the community which aligned with this, according to Ms Holme. "I think people are proud, as we should be, of the Illawarra's long history of making things here," she said. "The Illawarra is kind of empowering the rest of the state, for a really long time that's been part of our history, so I think it makes sense to me. "People are proud of that history and also really focused on ensuring that it's sustainable into the future. "We want to have those good jobs in those industries here, and ensuring that they can have clean, affordable, renewable power is the way to do that."

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## **'Port Kembla at centre stage': Region must lift or drift after pivotal year for progress**

5 January 2026

[2025's transformation: Illawarra's growth and opportunities | Illawarra Mercury | Wollongong, NSW](#)

After years of treading water, 2025 was a 'turning point' year for progress in the Illawarra, according to an industry leader. NSW Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Director of the Property Council of Australia, Matthew Wales, said momentum for the revitalisation of Port Kembla was at the heart of this growth. He said in 2025 many developments and projects in the Illawarra had begun to move from 'on paper' to 'in progress'. "Several shifts stood out, and Port Kembla returned to centre stage, with speedy delivery of a final rezoning for more than 200 hectares, unlocking the potential for thousands of long-term jobs in advanced manufacturing, clean energy, technology, and logistics," Mr

Wales said. "For a region facing chronic industrial land shortages, this is the first major step in rebuilding our economic engine."



Image: 'Port Kembla at centre stage': Region must lift or drift after pivotal year for progress

He said the shift to clean energy and the adoption of renewable initiatives would deliver a major jobs boost for the region. "Paired with hydrogen activity at the steelworks, we now have the bones of a locally anchored energy industry that will keep jobs here in the region." Port Kembla provides a physical anchor and a place for new energy, manufacturing, and technology businesses to land." Mr Wales also said the draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan is an important reset, finally "putting transport, housing, and jobs in the same conversation". He said with the opening later this year of the Western Sydney International Airport the Illawarra and Shoalhaven must become the coast to which the airport connects.

This would mean faster, more reliable transport links between the Illawarra and Sydney's west," he said. "The real test for the new transport plan will be whether it delivers funded, staged upgrades explicitly tied to Port Kembla and to the housing and employment corridors that run from Nowra through Shellharbour and Wollongong," Mr Wales said. "If the link to the new airport is left vague or unfunded, we will simply watch opportunities pass us by on the M7." However, he said the development of housing was still not keeping pace with demand, and the region needed to find ways to speed up the processing of housing approvals. "We also need a better mix, from well-located apartments to gentle density in established suburbs, so people can move through their various life stages without having to leave family and friends, and the region, behind."

He said Wollongong's refreshed Economic Development Strategy charts a path for jobs in health, innovation, creative industries, and advanced manufacturing. He noted the continuing shortage of industrial land outside of Port Kembla, which means investment would go elsewhere. He said meeting the challenges in front of us, which included attracting a skilled workforce, would mean we would look back on 2025 as the year the region turned the corner. "Drift, and we could waste the strongest position the Illawarra-Shoalhaven has held in a generation," he said.



Image: BlueScope has sold land it owns in West Depto to one of Australia's largest home builders. Picture by Adam McLean

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## What Will Replace the Diesel Ute in Oz?

24 December 2025

[What Will Replace the Diesel Ute in Oz? | Illawarra Mercury | Wollongong, NSW](#)



Image: What Will Replace the Diesel Ute in Oz?

Aussies love their [diesel utes](#) but with crunching emissions regulations coming into place, it's unclear how much longer they will reign supreme. Diesel utes such as the [Toyota HiLux](#) and [Ford Ranger](#) are well-loved and have been the best-selling vehicles in Australia for almost 10 years now. It now seems

“peak ute” has passed or will soon pass and the next best-selling car in Australia will likely be an SUV, potentially the [Toyota RAV4](#). Back to utes though, they are still a very popular body style in the fleet space and for tradies, farmers and other rural operators, among others. In order to cater to this market, carmakers have already started introducing ‘cleaner’ alternatives to diesel power as they are acutely aware of the tightening CO2 emission regulations that are coming into effect. Earlier in 2025 [Ford](#) introduced the [Ranger plug-in hybrid \(PHEV\)](#), which combines a 2.3litre [turbocharged](#) four-cylinder [petrol engine](#) with an electric motor. It produces total system outputs of 207kW and 697Nm, which is 23kW and 97Nm more than the current V6 turbo-diesel. It also offers up to 49km of NEDC claimed range and notably retains a 3500kg [braked towing capacity](#).

However, compared to the Ranger V6 diesel, the equivalent PHEV is currently around \$5000 more expensive. Even the cheapest Ranger PHEV is over \$70,000 before on-road costs. In the PHEV ute space, the Ranger PHEV’s biggest competition is the [Shark 6](#) from China’s BYD. It’s currently the best-selling PHEV ute in Australia with a total of 15,181 sold over the first 10 months of 2025. A big drawback for this is likely the Shark 6’s keen asking price. There’s currently only one fully loaded trim level offered in Australia and it’s priced from \$57,900 before on-road costs. Compared to the Ranger PHEV, the Shark 6 has a smaller 1.5-litre four-cylinder [petrol engine](#) that generally acts as a generator to charge the battery. As a result it only offers a 2500kg braked towing capacity, though thanks to a larger [battery pack](#) it offers [more electric range](#), up to 100km according to NEDC testing. Another PHEV ute option is the [GWM Cannon Alpha PHEV](#), which like the Ranger PHEV still offers the benchmark 3500kg braked towing capacity, and offers 110km of electric range according to NEDC testing. China’s GWM is also currently heavily incentivising the Cannon Alpha PHEV over its diesel counterpart. The entry-level Ultra PHEV is \$1500 cheaper than the Ultra [turbo-diesel](#).



Image: 2026 Toyota HiLux BEV

Looking beyond this, [Toyota](#) is heading down a different path with its [HiLux ute](#). It just launched a new-generation model and in the first half of 2026 will launch a [battery electric \(BEV\)](#) version. Aimed primarily at fleets rather than private buyers, the HiLux BEV will likely be much more expensive and less capable than its turbo-diesel counterpart. Toyota Australia hasn’t confirmed pricing, nor official details yet. If the European-specification version is anything to go by, while it has a dual-motor set-up with a 59.2kWh lithium-ion battery, it only has 240km of claimed range, according to pre-homologation WLTP testing. It also only offers payload of up to 715kg and braked towing capacity of 1600kg. This is down considerably on the turbo-diesel HiLux, which typically

offers about [1000kg of payload](#) and a 3500kg braked towing capacity. Another carmaker that's heading down the BEV pathway with its ute is [Isuzu](#). The Japanese brand plans to launch an electric version of [the D-Max](#) in Australia over the next year or so. Like the [HiLux BEV](#), the D-Max EV will likely be much more expensive than its [turbo-diesel](#) counterpart and in Europe only offers 262km of WLTP claimed range.

However, the D-Max EV offers a payload of up to 1000kg and a 3500kg braked towing capacity, matching current benchmarks for diesel-powered utes. As it currently stands there are two electric utes on sale in Australia. There's the lacklustre [LDV eT60](#) and an eye-watering \$92,900 before on-road costs, as well as the [KGM Musso EV](#) that starts at a sharp \$60,000 drive-away. The latter is unlike any other ute previously mentioned as it's built on a monocoque platform, not a body-on-frame chassis. This typically makes a vehicle more passenger-oriented for comfort than heavy-duty payload-oriented. Despite this, the Musso EV offers up to 905kg of payload and a 1800kg braked towing capacity. This is more than the European-specification HiLux BEV.

Toyota isn't putting all its eggs into one basket however, in classic multi-pathway strategy fashion. It has confirmed it will launch a hydrogen fuel-cell (FCEV) version of the HiLux in Australia during 2028. Toyota is one of the few to be still investing in FCEV technology beyond the realm of the heavy-duty trucks. Little is confirmed about the HiLux FCEV just yet, though Toyota Australia Vice President of Sales and Marketing Sean Hanley believes hydrogen will overtake diesel from 2035 onwards. It's unlikely there will be one singular silver bullet to replace popular diesel-powered utes as emission regulations crunch, but as laid out there are many options currently on the boil and likely many more still in the works.

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## Take a peek at the Science Space's new attraction

22 December 2025

[UOW unveils interactive clean energy exhibitions for youngsters. | Illawarra Mercury | Wollongong, NSW](#)



Image: Need to cool down this school holidays? Take a peek at the Science Space's new attraction

A new hands-on clean energy exhibition at the University of Wollongong's Science Space was a place to "teach not preach", one of its drivers, UOW Professor Ty Christopher, said. The series of 29 interactive exhibits called the Energy Futures Zone was launched in November by UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor G.Q. Max Lu and Member for Cunningham Alison Byrnes. Funded with \$2.5 million from the federal government, the addition to the Science Space includes renewable energy and manufacturing innovations for young and old to see.



Image: The new UOW Energy Futures section of the Science Space. Picture by Adam McLean

"The Energy Futures Zone is meant to be a public space that's accessible to all, ages 5 to 105, if you like," Professor Christopher, director of UOW's Energy Futures Network, said. "It's not meant to be telling people anything that they should or shouldn't do.



Image: The new UOW Energy Futures section of the Science Space. Picture by Adam McLean

"It's there to educate people on how energy impacts every minute of every day of our everyday lives - where our energy comes from now, where it could come from in the future, and basically, how all of these complex systems that we have in our lives actually work to deliver us the lifestyle that we all enjoy. "It's there to teach and not to preach to anyone."



Image: The new UOW Energy Futures section of the Science Space. Picture by Adam McLean

The \$2.5 million from Canberra was part of \$10 million in funding towards UOW's Energy Futures Skills Centre which would train workers for new skills needed for a clean energy transition. Professor Lu said it was the starting point for a "pipeline of knowledge". "It shows how energy touches every part of our daily lives and encourages people of all ages to imagine cleaner, smarter ways of powering our world," he said.



Image: Alison Byrnes and Professor Max Lu launched the exhibition. Picture by Adam McLean

"Importantly, it is also a bridge to what comes next. The Energy Futures Skills Centre, now in development, will help our industries prepare for the skills and workforce needed to drive Australia's clean energy transformation. "This is not just an exhibition, but it is the starting point for a pipeline

of knowledge, inspiration and capability that will support our region well into the future." Ms Byrnes said the Illawarra was "seeing innovation and manufacturing excellence on an unprecedented scale, showcasing Wollongong on the world stage as a leader". "That is no accident - it has a lot to do with local entrepreneurs and people with incredible ideas," she said.



UOW Science Space head Stuart Creal with a solar power interactive exhibit. Picture by Adam McLean

"It has a lot to do with global investors seeing the potential of our humble home. "And that is going to start right here - building the skilled workforce we need to make the renewable energy manufacturing future of our community a reality." Ms Byrnes said the pumped hydro marbles were her favourite part of the equipment - "followed closely by the wind turbines".

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## First tenant named in Port Kembla rezoning plan to double region's output

11 December 2025

[Rezoning transforms Port Kembla: New tech opportunities | Illawarra Mercury | Wollongong, NSW](#)

A North Wollongong tech company is set to be one of the first beneficiaries of the massive rezoning of industrial land in Port Kembla. The rezoning process for the 200 hectares of [unused BlueScope land](#), which began in April, is now complete, allowing businesses to work with BlueScope to potentially move there. BlueScope head of property Michael Yiend announced an exclusive agreement with [Sicona Batteries](#) to build a demonstration-scale plant on the land. "Sicona is a world-leading battery manufacturer, and this demonstration-scale plant will then be able to further advance their technology," he said. "This rezoning will enable multiple different asset classes to be developed on the land, including industrial logistics, as well as educational and innovation. "The

rezoning will attract not only new assets but also external capital to be invested into the region, and unlock a whole range of opportunities that previously were not available in the Illawarra."



Image: L-R: Paul Scully, Michael Yiend and Christiaan Jordaan at Sicon's North Wollongong facility. Picture by Adam McLean



Image: BlueScope head of property Michael Yiend. Picture by Adam McLean

Sicona chief executive and co-founder Christiaan Jordaan said the rezoning would "broaden" the scope of what can be done in the region. "We're really proud to be doing this and growing our business, and growing our scale and output here in the Illawarra," he said. "I think a key thing here, not only for the state but also on a national level, is really squarely taking the Future Made in Australia plan, and Sicona is one of the prime examples of that. "Looking to locally advance manufacturing materials in the renewable energy space, so quite excited to be part of this and what is ahead for the region."

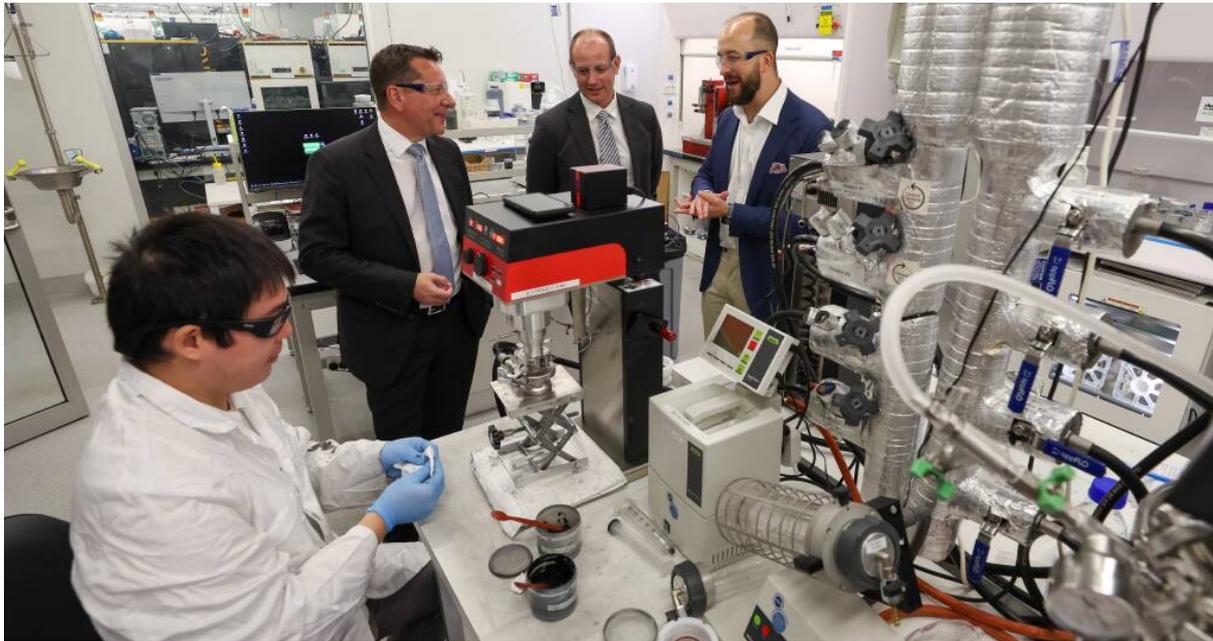


Image: L-R: Paul Scully, Michael Yiend and Christiaan Jordaan at Sicona's North Wollongong facility. Picture by Adam McLean

### 'Aggressive targets'

The demonstration plant is in the early development stages with an optimistic target of late 2027. "There's still some work to do to refine all of that, it's still subject to finance, which I can't say too much about," Mr Jordaan said. "If all the stars align, we'd be looking towards the back end of 2027 as a commercial operation date. "That's our internal target, and I always set quite aggressive targets."

The plan has rezoned 200 hectares of former surplus industrial land, equivalent to the size of Sydney's central business district between Circular Quay and Central Station. The public exhibition of the rezoning received 209 submissions, with 90 per cent of responses providing positive comments, while only four were opposed to the plan. The land will be developed in stages over the next two decades, with development applications to be lodged for individual sites as they are progressed.

### Biggest change in region's history

Minister for Planning and Member for Wollongong, Paul Scully, who has also acted as the chair of the working group driving the rezoning, called the site "hugely significant". "It's probably the biggest change to our industrial landscape in the region since the introduction of and the relocation of steelmaking to the region nearly 100 years ago," he said. "This is an opportunity to grow industry in our region, it works in with everything the government's doing with respect to Illawarra Urban Renewable Energy zone. "It works with what the government's doing with employing and accelerating TAFE training. It works with what the government's doing with respect to the centre of

excellence of heavy industry manufacturing at TAFE." More than 20,000 jobs will be supported by the future-focused hub, with plans and discussions already underway for a "super TAFE" to be built.



Image: Sicona Batteries Technologies chief executive Christiaan Jordaan. Picture by Adam McLean

According to Mr Scully, BlueScope and the Illawarra generate "about 1.5 per cent of the state's gross product", with the potential to more than double in the coming years. "That's why this is not only of local significance, it's also of state and national significance," he said. "Having such great industrial land connected to a port, opposite an existing steelworks serviced by four railway stations and a six-lane highway from the get-go is something that's not been done before. "I'm really excited about what this means for the future of the region." BlueScope Steelworks and port operations will continue uninterrupted, with existing infrastructure and transport connections at the site to be leveraged to support the new developments.



Image: Minister for Planning and Member for Wollongong, Paul Scully. Picture by Adam McLean

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## Contact

The **Port Kembla Hydrogen Hub** is funded by the [Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation](#) (ISJO) and NSW Government. For further information, please contact Jessica Young, Port Kembla Hydrogen Hub Facilitator by email: [info@portkemblahydrogenhub.com.au](mailto:info@portkemblahydrogenhub.com.au). Previous editions of the **Port Kembla Hydrogen Hub Update** newsletter are available [here](#).