

1 July 2026

## **Hydrogen Hub a boost for region's clean energy reputation**

Business Hunter has welcomed news that Orica's Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub has received the green light, saying the decision will support ongoing operations at the Kooragang plant and boost the region's global reputation as a clean energy leader.

Orica announced today that it had reached Final Investment Decision to proceed with the plant, which will be the first commercial-scale renewable hydrogen production facility of its type in Australia.

The pioneering project will partially replace natural gas feedstock used at the plant with renewable hydrogen to create lower-carbon ammonia and ammonia nitrate.

"This decision demonstrates that industry in our region is at the forefront of innovation in clean energy, supporting the growth and diversification of our green economy," Business Hunter CEO Bob Hawes said.

"As a proud manufacturing region, we are focused on the challenge of finding ways to reduce carbon output without losing our industrial strength and capability.

"Orica is leading the way in this regard, with the support of the state and federal governments and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, investing in solutions that will support its operations now and into the future."

Work on the Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub is expected to begin this year, with the first production target in early 2029.

Mr Hawes said the decision to proceed with the plant would support existing jobs and manufacturing at the plant, while also cultivating new skills and expertise in renewable hydrogen production.

"These are exactly the skills we want to bring to this region to send a message to investors globally that the Hunter leads the nation in the advancement of renewable energy technology and capability," Mr Hawes said.

"We look forward to seeing progress on the hydrogen hub and the Hunter continuing to lead Australia's transition to a cleaner, more innovative industrial future."

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