

COMMUNITY NEWS



Artist's impression of the proposed Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub

HUNTER VALLEY HYDROGEN HUB FUNDING FINALIST

The Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub (HVHH), a joint project between Orica and Origin Energy, has been shortlisted to potentially receive a share of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency's (ARENA) \$2 billion Hydrogen Headstart funding.

The Hydrogen Headstart Program aims to catalyse Australia's hydrogen industry and take advantage of the country's unparalleled opportunity to be a global hydrogen leader.

Under the Program, projects seeking to produce renewable hydrogen or derivatives, such as renewable ammonia at scale, can apply for a production credit delivered over 10 years to bridge the commercial gap between the cost of producing renewable hydrogen and the market price.

ARENA CEO Darren Miller said the strong interest in the program indicates that project developers are gaining confidence in Australia's potential to host this important new industry.

"Hydrogen Headstart is a crucial step towards keeping Australia on the path to become a global hydrogen leader, creating new export opportunities, while helping to decarbonise our economy."

"The applicants shortlisted for the next stage provide us with the best opportunity at fast tracking our renewable hydrogen industry. It's great to see the commitment from Australian companies who are looking to invest in and utilise hydrogen in their own decarbonisation efforts," said Mr Miller.

The Orica/Origin HVHH will deliver a safe, reliable and commercial-scale renewable hydrogen supply chain in the Newcastle industrial and port precinct on Kooragang Island.

In phase one of the project, renewable hydrogen produced at the hub will be piped directly to our ammonia plant and used as an alternative feedstock to natural gas, contributing to the decarbonisation of our site.

The project capitalises on Orica's existing infrastructure and the Hunter Region's skills base to deliver the fastest, lowest risk, and most practical route to establishing a renewable hydrogen and ammonia industry.

It will help diversify the Hunter Valley's energy mix, create employment opportunities, and put the region on the path to becoming a leader in hydrogen energy generation for domestic use and potential export.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW SITE MANAGER

Welcome to Viney Kumar, who is the new Manufacturing Centre Manager for our Kooragang Island site.

Viney is a Chemical Engineer who has been with Orica for 28 years. He has managed manufacturing operations all around the globe including in India, China, Philippines, Africa, United Arab Emirates and Australia. Most recently, Viney was the Manufacturing Centre Manager at Orica's ammonium nitrate facility in Gladstone, Queensland.

Mr Kumar said he values the strong relationship Orica has with the local community and is committed to proactive, transparent and inclusive engagement.

"Orica understands the privilege of being a welcome and trusted operator in the community. I will ensure that the Kooragang Island site continues to meet your expectations, with safety as my highest priority."

Pictured: Orica Kooragang Island's new Manufacturing Centre Manager, Viney Kumar



AMMONIA PLANT TURNAROUND STAGE TWO ALMOST COMPLETE

Stage two of the ammonia plant turnaround (planned maintenance shutdown) is currently underway and should be completed around the second week of March. Hundreds of extra workers are on site executing key activities including:

- statutory inspections
- testing of safety instrumented systems (SIS)
- inspection, testing and overhaul of relief valves
- catalyst replacements
- installation and upgrading of equipment
- general repairs.

A significant project being carried out during the turnaround is the replacement of the upper section on the carbon dioxide removal vessel. The new section, which is eight metres high, was fabricated locally by UGL at Bennetts Green.

Planned turnarounds for the ammonia plant provide an important opportunity to undertake projects that ensure the plant can continue to operate safely and efficiently.

What to expect when the ammonia plant starts up:

- At the end of the turnaround, the ammonia plant will go through a start-up process. During this process, which can last for a number of days, you may notice some different sights and sounds.
- Gases will be vented from the high point stacks for extended periods and it's possible they may ignite. This is normal and nothing to be concerned about.
- Increased levels of steam will be visible as the cleaning of pipes is undertaken and catalysts are activated.
- Elevated noise levels may occur due to commissioning checks. These checks are scheduled to be undertaken only during daytime hours.



Pictured: The carbon dioxide removal vessel

FURTHER REDUCTION IN POTABLE WATER USAGE

In 2023, we reduced our potable water usage on site by a further 15 per cent, saving around 130ML of potable water per annum. That equates to 52 Olympic-sized pools.

The latest reduction is in addition to that previously reported a number of years ago, when we made the switch to using recycled water across most of the site. Now, approximately 80 per cent of the water we use is recycled, saving the Hunter region around 2.7 billion litres of drinking water a year.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM UPDATE



HUNTER HURRICANES

The sporting club has utilised an Orica grant to purchase new equipment including balls, swimwear, rebounders, and goal targets to support their participation in this year's national titles.



NORTHSIDE BOARDRIDERS

The club recently ran Surfer Girl Sunday – a hugely popular and free learn-to-surf day for girls and young women.



MINI EV FESTIVAL

Career Links delivered the Mini Electric Vehicle (EV) Festival, with around 1,000 primary and high school students participating in the event.



STOCKTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The society has reprinted the sold-out *Stockton over the Years Volumes 1 and 2*, enabling residents to purchase a full set of the popular local publications.

The Orica Community Investment Program supports initiatives that promote education and lifelong learning, improve and protect the environment, and build strong communities. There are two funding rounds each year in March and September. Application forms can be found at orica.com/kooragang



PRILL TOWER PROGRESS

A \$46 million project to reduce the site's PM2.5 ammonium nitrate (AN) emissions is getting closer to completion.

The project involves retrofitting the prill tower with an irrigated fibre-bed scrubber, which is designed to capture fine particles of AN formed during the manufacturing process. Once installed, it is anticipated the scrubber will reduce PM2.5 emissions from the tower by more than 95 per cent.

All civil works have been completed, all equipment has been fabricated and delivered to site, and a new electrical room has been built and installed. Strengthening of the existing tower continues in preparation to accommodate the additional load from the scrubber.

The scrubber is expected to be operational by September this year.

Pictured: Sections of the scrubber's ductwork ready for installation



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Kooragang Island

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

The first round of funding for Orica's 2024 Community Investment Program is now open, with grants of up to \$10,000 available to eligible local community groups.

The Orica Community Investment Program supports initiatives that promote education and lifelong learning, improve and protect the environment, and build strong communities.

Application forms and supporting documents are available at orica.com/kooragang. Applications for this round of funding will close on **31 March** with successful recipients notified in April.

2024 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP MEETINGS

Monday 26 February 2024
Monday 27 May 2024
Monday 26 August 2024
Monday 25 November 2024

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Round 1, 2024 opens 1 March and closes 31 March
Round 2, 2024 opens 1 September and closes 30 September

COMMUNITY SITE TOURS*

Saturday 13 April 2024
Saturday 15 June 2024
Saturday 17 August 2024

*By registration only. Participants must be 16 years or older.