

## Submission on the *Interim Hydrogen Roadmap*

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### Release of information

Please let us know if you would like any part of your submission to be kept confidential.

I would like to be contacted before the release or use of my submission in the summary of submissions that will be published by MBIE after the consultation.

I would like my submission (or identified parts of my submission) to be kept confidential, and **have stated below** my reasons and grounds under the Official Information Act that I believe apply, for consideration by MBIE.

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## Responses to questions

### Section 1: Hydrogen is emerging as an important part of the future global energy system

1

Are there other issues we should be considering in our assessment of the strategic landscape for hydrogen in New Zealand?

### Section 2: The role for hydrogen in New Zealand's energy transition

2

Do you agree with our assessment of the most viable use cases of hydrogen in New Zealand's energy transition?

3

Do you support some of these uses more than others?

4

What other factors should we be considering when assessing the right roles for hydrogen in New Zealand's energy transition?

### Section 3: Government position and actions

5

Do you agree with our policy objectives?

6

Do you agree with our positioning on hydrogen's renewable electricity impacts and export sector?

7

Do you agree with the proposed actions and considerations we have made under each focus area?

8

Is there any evidence we should be considering to better target actions in the final Hydrogen Roadmap?

## General comments

### Submission from the Manawatū District Council on the Draft Interim Hydrogen Roadmap

Manawatū District Council (MDC) thanks the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) for the opportunity to comment on the Interim Hydrogen Roadmap. MDC notes the potential for hydrogen to play a crucial role in integrating future energy systems and bridging the shift from a largely fossil-fuel-based economy to a more renewable energy based economy, with the added advantages of varied energy sources. MDC suggests that a well-structured hydrogen roadmap will not only harness the potential of hydrogen as a clean energy carrier but it will also help to address economic, environmental and energy security objectives that contribute to global efforts to combat climate change.

### Opportunities for Hydrogen in the Manawatū District

The consultation document does not specify which areas in New Zealand hydrogen deployment would occur and MDC notes that it would be dependent on various factors such as available infrastructure, electricity and water (seawater). MDC, however, sees opportunities for hydrogen deployment and utilisation in the waste management space in Manawatū District. As part of our environmental aspirations, MDC is committed to implementing sustainable and low emissions waste disposal and management systems. We recognise the critical importance of reducing our environmental footprint and mitigating the impact of waste generation and disposal in our district.

MDC is currently exploring the potential benefits of utilising hydrogen fuel cell garbage trucks to transport waste. MDC recognises that there are environmental, economic and operational advantages to using hydrogen-powered garbage trucks for waste disposal. Additionally, to support hydrogen powered waste transport, hydrogen refuelling infrastructure is also crucial. MDC would like to see government funding support and co-investment in on-site hydrogen production and refuelling stations, to ensure a continuous supply of hydrogen for their vehicles.

### Other issues for consideration when assessing the strategic landscape for hydrogen

MDC notes that the interim hydrogen roadmap highlights technological, societal, economic and environmental factors, albeit in insufficient detail. It is unclear what the future forecasts or trends are where there is an increase or decrease in uptake of hydrogen energy and its implication on economic and employment growth. MDC suggests that an in-depth investigation into these factors is required to enable the government make informed decisions about the role of hydrogen in New Zealand's energy future. For example, central government will need to consider economic implications which include the development of efficient methods to understand the technical assistance and investment required to build the infrastructure needed for hydrogen storage and distribution.

Regarding social implications, it is pertinent to note that the degree of social tension, which can exert a substantial impact on the hydrogen energy program, is contingent on public trust. Central government needs to involve the public as the ultimate beneficiaries of the program. To promote hydrogen energy adoption and limit widespread public scepticism, it is imperative to offer

nationwide education on hydrogen energy from an early start. Further, incentives, tax breaks, discounts, and other attractive initiatives can also encourage the active participation of industrial stakeholders in the uptake of hydrogen energy.

#### Actions Sought

1. That the government properly investigate and forecast the future trends in the adoption of hydrogen technology and present it to New Zealanders for further consultation to enable better informed responses.
2. That the government consider and communicate the employment and economic growth scenario where there is an increase in hydrogen demand.