

Update on South Australian energy resources and the energy transition

### **Elinor Alexander**

**Director Geoscience and Exploration** 

South Australian Department for Energy and Mining





### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT FOR ENERGY AND MINING

Leading the global transformation community: supporting a successful energy and mining sector that enables South Australia to responsibly grow and thrive.



**Energy Resources Division** 

**Growth and Low Carbon Division** 

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# **Exploration licensing**

#### **Competitive tender basins**

- Cooper & Otway basins vacant acreage is only available via releases.
- There may be new releases in 2022.

### **Over-the-counter applications**

- Everywhere else.
- Applications can be lodged at any time.
- 'Top filing' option exists over PELAs (pink areas).

### Natural hydrogen exploration licencing

- Can now occur via a Petroleum Exploration Licence.
- 6 companies have lodged 19 PELAs targeting natural hydrogen since February 2021:
  - o Gold Hydrogen Pty Ltd/Byrock Australia Pty Ltd
  - White Hydrogen Australia Pty Ltd
  - H2Ex Pty Ltd
  - o 2H Resources Pty Ltd.
- PEL 687 granted to Gold Hydrogen Pty Ltd on 22 July 2021, more to come.

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# Fast & flexible natural gas remains an important part of SA's energy mix



211 MW Barker Inlet Power Station (AGL) – 2019

The station is capable of operating at full capacity within five minutes, providing a rapid response to changes in renewable generation supply

Source: Energy Magazine



### Gas Storage Licences



- Leading practice regulation already in place for Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS) and gas storage.
  SA offers:
  - Gas Storage Exploration licences (< 2,500km<sup>2</sup>),
    Gas Storage Retention Licenses (< 1,000km<sup>2</sup>),
    Gas Storage Licences (< 1,000km<sup>2</sup>).
- Depleted oil and gas fields in the Cooper and Otway basins have excellent potential as storage reservoirs suitable for CCS.

# Carbon Capture and Storage





Santos

- DEM is implementing a framework to facilitate carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects.
- Santos are proposing a \$210 million CCS project at Moomba in depleted Cooper Basin oil and gas fields which can provide safe, low-cost and permanent storage of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Initial target is 1.7 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>/year.
- In the long term, carbon storage in the Cooper Basin could store 20 million tonnes a year from other industrial emitters for more than 50 years.
- Santos are exploring the production of zero-emissions hydrogen enabled by the CCS project.

### Low Cost Carbon Neutral Energy from Gidgee Energy PEL 678, SA Cooper Basin

- contact David Warner (President): <u>Dswpet@bigpond.com</u>, cell +61 419859985

ARCoSTIM – a new disruptive drilling and completion methodology (patent pending) is designed to create large, high permeability stimulated reservoir volumes to facilitate simultaneous gas production from and sequestration of  $CO_2$  into deep coal reservoirs



Initial production of raw gas from Deep Coal reservoirs will result in large areas of gas depleted, low pressure, high permeability coal reservoirs – Stimulated Reservoir Volumes (SRV ) These SRV's can be subsequently used for CCS:

- Can permanently trap CO<sub>2</sub> by adsorption
- Very large areas and large volumes of coal SRV's provide very large CCS.



## **Exploration for natural hydrogen**



Current 3 September 2021
Recent licences and applications
Gold Hydrogen Pty Ltd
2H Resources Pty Ltd
Byrock Resources Pty Ltd
H2Ex Pty Ltd
White Hydrogen Australia Pty Ltd

#### Petroleum tenements

Under application (PELA) Current (offshore EPP; onshore PEL) Current (PPL) individual licences not shown Current (PRL) individual licences not shown

#### Selected wells with hydrogen anomalies

- 🔶 Dry hole
- ♀ Gas shows
   ☆ Gas well
  - No petroleum exploration access -National Parks and Reserves

- Early days! First licence granted in July 2021.
- 50-80% hydrogen was measured in 1931 by the Mines Dept in gas samples from wells on Kangaroo Island, Yorke Peninsula and the Otway Basin.
- Recent international publications in 2020-21 highlighting the hydrogen occurrences have attracted explorers (e.g. Zgonnik, 2020; Moretti et al., 2021; Boreham et al., 2021).
- Potential natural hydrogen source rocks include:
  - ultrabasic rocks and iron-rich cratons (hydrogen generation from the oxidation of Fe(II) bearing minerals), and
  - uranium-rich basement with hydrogen generated by radiolysis of water (Gaucher, 2020).
- Proposed company exploration include soil sampling, sniffer surveys, airborne geophysics with drilling later in the 5 year programs.

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# SA's energy transition snapshot



52% renewable electricity generation in 2018/19... the second highest penetration of variable renewables in the world behind Denmark



Home to the world's largest battery 100MW - soon to be upsized: 150MW



A large scale renewable energy pipeline... including SA's first GW scale, wind, solar and storage project



1 in 3

households with solar PV and accelerating adoption by businesses

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the world's largest per capita roll out of home batteries

### A Hydrogen Action Plan

focussed on scaling up renewable hydrogen production for export and domestic consumption

# SA's Hydrogen Action Plan Action Themes

#### Vision:

South Australia leverages its wind, sun, land, infrastructure and skills to be a world-class renewable hydrogen supplier.

#### **Objective:**

Scale-up renewable hydrogen production for export and domestic consumption

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Facilitate investments in hydrogen infrastructure

Springboard from first renewable hydrogen production in 2020 towards a hydrogen economy Ä

Establish a world class regulatory framework

Deliver global best-practice hydrogen regulations that are simple and efficient, building community and investor confidence

Deepen trade relationships and supply capabilities

Establish robust relationships and value chains to supply renewable hydrogen to new and emerging trade partners



Foster innovation and workforce skills development

Accelerate hydrogen innovation based on solid academic research and industry partnerships, and ensure South Australia has the workforce skills, capability and capacity to deliver



Integrate hydrogen into our energy system

Understanding the value of hydrogen in our decarbonised energy system





## Hydrogen regulatory framework

- The State's <u>Climate Change Action Plan</u> commits to embrace future fuels, which require regulatory frameworks to ensure safe operation of essential infrastructure.
- The scope of the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000 will be expanded to cover production and pipeline transmission of hydrogen, and renamed to the Energy Resources Act.



- The new Act will cover generation of hydrogen from means not already permissible under the existing Act, such as electrolysis of water, via a specific **Hydrogen Generation Licence**.
- This provides all hydrogen generation sectors the same leading practice regulatory and onewindow to government regime as is currently provided to the oil and gas industries.
- A hydrogen export tool is available for project proponents: https://hydrogenexport.sa.gov.au/

### Hydrogen Park SA – Australian Gas Infrastructure Group

- Since May 2021 Australian Gas Networks has supplied a blend of natural gas and 5% renewable hydrogen to 700 customers through the existing gas network – an Australian first.
- The HyP SA 1.25MW electrolyser at Tonsley Innovation District, just south of downtown Adelaide, is the largest electrolyser currently in Australia.
- Industrial hydrogen customers are also being supplied via truck.



# Opportunities to unlock the value of SA's renewable energy resources

#### Domestic

- Electrify domestic transport (via battery or fuel cell EV)
- Decarbonise gas networks (via hydrogen and biogas)
- Decarbonise existing industrial emissions

#### Export

- Export power interstate
- Export hydrogen overseas
- Grow and attract energy intensive industries to export green commodities:
  - Green chemicals e.g. green ammonia, green fertiliser
  - Green minerals / metals e.g. green steel, green copper



Images (top to bottom): ZEVNZ, Getty Images, Penn State University, Iron Road and H2U

### South Australian **Mineral resources**

Copper: 67% of Australia's **Economic Demonstrated** Resources (EDR) (Copper to World annual conference)

**Magnetite:** 6 billion tonnes or 44% of Australia EDR

**Graphite:** 65% of Australia's EDR

**REE:** Most advanced technology smelter in Australia for production – Port Pirie





DEYMPIC DAM

CRATO

Dic Dam Expansio

HILLSIDE

ward Creek - Victor

Mount Ger

ADELAIDE

IRNAMOR

PROVINCE

Kalkaroo,

BASIN

Mount Gambier

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AUSTRALIA Energy Resources



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#### **Further Information:**

Elinor Alexander, Director Geoscience & Exploration

Energy Resources Division: Elinor.alexander@sa.gov.au
 Richard Day, Director Strategy, Policy and Communications

- Growth State and Low Carbon Transition Division

Richard.day@sa.gov.au

Web: https://energymining.sa.gov.au/

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