

## DEVELOPER SEEKS PARTNER FOR ABBOT POINT HYDROGEN EXPORT HUB

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### Australia & NZ

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EnergyEstate is seeking a development partner for an integrated hydrogen production and export facility at the existing Abbot Point Port near Bowen in North Queensland.

The Sydney-based renewables incubator and advisory boutique has proposed the Abbot Point Clean Energy Hub, which would comprise a hydrogen Electrolyser 1, desalination plant, solar farm, wind farm and storage adjacent to a proposed industrial precinct zoned as a State Development Area.

EnergyEstate is seeking an investment partner to take the project through the approvals process and into construction.

It currently holds a 100% interest in the early-stage concept and would look to sell down equity to the partner, which could be a stakeholder interested in investing in a global hydrogen value chain.

Suitable parties might include a Japanese or Korean trading house or strategic investor, an oil and gas major, a global institutional investor such as [Macquarie's](#) Green Investment Group or Queensland-based investment managers such as Queensland Investment Corporation, EnergyEstate principal Simon Currie told *SparkSpread* in an interview today.

North Queensland Bulk Ports, a government-owned corporation, owns Abbot Point and leases two of its existing berths to coal exporters, including Adani. NQBP is looking for ways to transition the port to other lower-carbon uses as part of its long-term strategy and is now looking at exporting hydrogen, according to its website.

Abbot Point Port was named in a 2019 study on Australian Hydrogen Hubs carried out by a Council of Australian Governments energy working group. Existing infrastructure, including rail and jetties, could be repurposed to accommodate cargoes of liquefied hydrogen manufactured at a clean energy hub located onshore, according to an *EnergyEstate* investor presentation.

The Clean Energy Infrastructure Hub would be built in stages, and would initially export 20 tonnes per day of hydrogen and involve the construction of a 50 MW electrolyser, a 260 MW solar farm, a 600 MW wind farm, a 50 mega litre/day desalination plant (to provide water for the hydrogen production process), and pipelines to transport the hydrogen as gas to the jetty (where it would be liquefied and transferred to a hydrogen carrier ship for export), according to EnergyEstate project developer Paul Rasmussen.

Abbot Point Port sits adjacent to 17,000ha of land zoned for industrial uses, that the NQBP and Queensland government are concurrently developing. Hydrogen made at the electrolyser could be piped to manufacturers in the industrial precinct to use instead of gas, or piped to the jetty for export.

The upfront capital cost for the Clean Energy Hub infrastructure would be in the region of AUD 2.5bn-3.5bn. Early site investigations have been started, including a scoping study and an IAS study, which is the first stage of an environmental approval for a State Development Area in Queensland.

The developers are aiming to select a partner within the next year, obtain environmental approvals and reach a final investment decision by the second quarter of 2023. This would allow construction to begin on the solar, electrolyser, desalination plant and connecting pipeline infrastructure soon after, enabling the first hydrogen to be produced at the electrolyser by around 2025.

Abbot Point Port is located off the coast of Central Queensland between Townsville and Mackay and is Australia's northernmost coal export port.

Adani operates the sole coal export terminal on one of the jetties, and controversially tried to expand its footprint at Abbot Point to handle more coal for its proposed Carmichael Coal Mine, but had to scale back its plans due to concerns about the environmental impact on the surrounding Great Barrier Reef marine park area.

Currently, the port has an export capacity of 50m tonnes of coal but it is anticipated that future expansion will involve alternative commodities or industries that contribute to Queensland's decarbonisation goals.

The Queensland government has in the past investigated other industries the port could become a hub for, including LNG. NQBP and the government are now switching their attention to the export and manufacturing of hydrogen at the port and surrounding SDA industrial precinct, according to the port operator's website.

Abbot Point is one of several hydrogen hubs being proposed in Queensland. Other [potential locations in the state](#) include the Port of Gladstone and the City of Townsville.

## Advisor Profile

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### Energy Estate

 AUSTRALIA | Financial | Deal count: 5

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