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Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy

## Time for O'Byrne to plug the hydrogen hyperbole

It is time for Labor's former failed Economic Development Minister David O'Byrne to stop deliberately misleading the community and undermining Tasmania's hydrogen future.

Tasmania has a bright hydrogen future and the Hodgman majority Liberal Government is already investing heavily to develop our hydrogen potential as part of our Battery of the Nation plan.

While other states will use coal fired energy to produce hydrogen on a commercial scale, Tasmania will use renewable hydro and wind energy to split water, producing emissions-free hydrogen, giving us a competitive advantage.

It is estimated that globally Australia's hydrogen export market could rise to between \$2.6 billion and \$13.4 billion by 2040 and Tasmania will be a major player.

With emerging industries in Japan, South Korea and China, Tasmania has received significant interest from a range of proponents seeking emissions-free hydrogen at competitive rates. Shortly, an international consortium will be visiting to continue discussions.

Any leader worth their salt, understands that negotiations of this scale are commercial in confidence, yet David O'Byrne and Labor have taken the low road, in an attempt to erode business confidence to score cheap political points.

The Government is committed to building a strong foundation for our hydrogen industry, and is engaged with the Northern Tasmania Development Committee and our Commonwealth counterparts to drive the development of this sector.

Tasmania is actively involved at an inter-governmental and industry level in the development of the National Hydrogen Strategy, which will be released later this year.

I recently met with the Australia's Chief Scientist to discuss Tasmania's potential to lead the nation in this sector.

Labor are not fair dinkum when it comes to creating hydrogen jobs in Tasmania, they might talk about it, but they do not have a single policy.

David O'Byrne might be excited by the fact he has only just discovered hydrogen, but it is about time he actually delivered a policy of his own rather than breathless hyperbole.