

Friday 24 February 2023

Super battery sets super pace

The region's peak industry body **Business Hunter** has welcomed the announcement of the planning green light for the Waratah Super Battery, which aims to provide additional capacity for the grid.

Business Hunter CEO, Bob Hawes said progress on the battery project, coupled with the opening of the consultation phase for offshore wind, showed promising momentum.

"It's been a big week for energy news in the Hunter, and these announcements acknowledge and celebrate welcome milestones that demonstrate we are steps closer to realising our ambitions in the new energy economy," said Mr Hawes.

Mr Hawes said the relative speed of the Waratah Super Battery application and approval process had set the pace for other renewable energy projects in the region.

"There is a task to move new energy projects forward through the feasibility, planning, funding, construction and commissioning phases without delay. The Waratah Super Battery has moved through to planning in remarkable time, and our State Election Platform calls for state significant infrastructure status by default to all renewable projects to stimulate a similar outcome," said Mr Hawes.

"It's clear that battery storage projects are relatively easy and clean in terms of project procurement, given the estimate it will be commissioned within a few years - and given the volatility in the traditional energy market, there's no time to waste."

Mr Hawes said the NEW H2 Symposium held in Newcastle this week had highlighted the range and scale of projects stacking up on the Hunter's new energy horizon.

"This is an industrial evolution on a tremendous scale. There's clearly an extraordinary focus on a range of initiatives and projects circling around the region. Our task now is to be able to move them forward, which is going to require support and effective collaboration between business, industry, the community and all levels of government in order to bear fruit," said Mr Hawes.

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