

**19 May 2021**

## **GAS-FIRED POWER STATION A BOOST FOR BUSINESS**

Today's announcement that the proposed gas-fired power plant at Kurri will go ahead will provide certainty to manufacturers and other energy-intensive industries in the region, Business Hunter said today.

Commenting on the announcement that the Government has committed up to \$600 million for Snowy Hydro to build a 660 MW open cycle gas turbine plant at Kurri Kurri, Business Hunter CEO Bob Hawes said the guaranteed firming capacity of gas would provide industry with reliability of supply in a changing energy market.

"Gas is a bridge to a cleaner energy future, complementing increased investment in renewables," Mr Hawes said.

"Industry needs energy supply that is reliable and affordable in order to remain competitive and ensure that manufacturing jobs stay here in our region.

"Investment in gas will provide the price and supply guarantee that industry needs as we continue to transition to a new energy mix."

Mr Hawes said the gas plant would also provide more flexibility to the grid, with capacity for power supply to be switched on or ramped up as required.

"Gas is an important complement to renewable sources as it is an around-the-clock power source that can fire up or down to meet demand," he said.

"Given this region's interest in the development of hydrogen energy solutions, we are pleased to see capacity for hydrogen to be incorporated into new gas generators as a fuel.

"The Hunter has been earmarked as a hub for research and development of hydrogen technologies by both the state and federal governments, so the potential dual fuel capability of this plant will complement the region's emerging hydrogen industry."

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