

Greater Shepparton Energy Hub Feasibility Study – Energising Special K

Challenges and Opportunities

The Committee for Greater Shepparton (C4GS) is seeking funds to explore the feasibility of transforming the region's highly concentrated value adding, manufacturing and processing precinct into a precinct that is serviced – in part or in full - by local renewable energy (gas and electricity) generation, storage and distribution.

The case study will provide a model for regional manufacturing hubs across Australia to explore and design their future needs.

Greater Shepparton's concentration of diverse, energy-intense manufacturing provides an ideal location to explore and determine the infrastructure, networks, policy and operational needs to support energy security and transition for regional manufacturing centres.

Specifically, the project will explore the opportunities to transition the 3.4km² area to the east of Shepparton's CBD (Special K). This precinct is home to world leading businesses

and iconic brands such as SPC, Noumi, Milk Lab, Furphy's, Pental, White King, and it borders Greater Shepparton's university, TAFE and public secondary school. There is a diverse mix of industries, and of site designs, and age.

Greater Shepparton has significant solar and bioenergy investment underway and planned, however energy generation is not sufficient, nor are 'behind the meter' solutions possible for all sites. Energy storage and distribution must be investigated and addressed to provide confidence for regional manufacturers and capture shared and collaborative investment opportunities.

This project will explore the transition challenge and how it can support regional value adding and manufacturing industry to remain in the regions where it drives local employment, investment and economic activity – and has the capacity to lead new skills and job development and training.

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PAM ARNOLD

Head of Health, Safety and Environment, SPC

“We have operated on this site for more than 110 years which creates challenges for behind the meter solutions.

Therefore, we are keen to see what could be done in and alongside our manufacturing hub in partnership with industry.”



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ADAM FURPHY

*Managing Director
J. Furphy & Sons*

“Transition from gas to electricity as a means of maintaining our molten zinc in our galvanizing bath 24/7 is prohibitively expensive even with elevated gas prices. We are motivated to look at all options to ensure gas supply is assured including assessing what local businesses can do collectively.”



Solution

C4GS seeks funding to engage appropriate expert advisers to:

- Understand what's needed to transform a regional manufacturing precinct into a future-proof regional renewable energy manufacturing precinct - with a particular focus on the transformation and retrofitting of long-standing sites (brownfield) that define the identity and history of regional towns and communities.
- Map current energy (gas and electricity) demand, generation (including community/residential), and networks to understand the current limitations and to test scenarios for electrification and (renewable) gas.
- Assist with developing the business cases to attract and support investment – with a particular focus on attracting global and domestic non-government investment sources.
- Identify the regulatory and legislative changes that are needed to support the energy transition for regional industry.

- Partner with local education providers to co-design sustainable training and innovation options to run in parallel with the transition and bolster Australia's new economy skills.

Overall the project will provide a significant contribution to Australia's energy transition, the future of Australian manufacturing and the Commonwealth Government's recent announcing Feeding Australia National Food Security Strategy. It will guide governments in the design of legislation and regulations that work in the regions, and add confidence to the future of Australia's food and manufacturing sector.

Investment

C4GS anticipates the project will require \$500,000 funding to meet C4GS coordination demands and the engagement of appropriately skilled experts. The first milestone of scoping the project will provide the necessary timelines for subsequent funding tranches and milestones.

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