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Australian response to requests for information at IPHE first meeting

Background

The IPHE has asked for information from member countries on priority IPHE activities and hydrogen-related R&D roadmaps. Australia's responses on each of these issues are outlined below, and are prepared in response to the request made at the first meeting of the ILC.

Issues

Australian suggestions for priority IPHE activities

Common codes and standards are important to establishing an international environment which facilitates the transfer, diffusion and take up of hydrogen technologies both nationally and internationally. The codes and standards adopted in any IPHE member country should conform to those that are being developed and adopted internationally unless the former are anti-competitive or have the potential to stultify innovation.

IPHE member countries should participate actively in the development of codes and standards to ensure that they are not detrimental to realising their domestic policy objectives and strategies. Australia's participation would aim to ensure that any codes and standards applying internationally would not be detrimental to the further development of our renewable and fossil resources for hydrogen production, or to our use of hydrogen in any particular way.

Australia supports the IPHE's role in facilitating the formation of public/private and international partnerships aimed at accelerating the development, diffusion and commercialisation of hydrogen technologies. We note that the minutes of the 19 December ILC Cabinet meeting report support a strengthening of private sector involvement in the ILC, and consider this a positive step.

In relation to hydrogen production, Australia would support any work to be undertaken in this field. Research occurring in Australia into clean coal technologies and renewables to hydrogen, including direct solar to hydrogen systems, could contribute to a future work program of the IPHE. In addition, given Australia's large renewable energy resources and off-grid power supply requirements, a focus on renewable hydrogen for remote power applications would also be of

interest to Australia. We note in this context the need to establish close links with CSLF and to avoid overlap between the IPHE and the CSLF work programs.

Australia considers that the IPHE can play an important role in understanding the social context and the role of public education in getting hydrogen technologies into the marketplace. In this context, Australia's involvement in two projects such as the Antarctic wind demonstration project and the Perth hydrogen bus trial have environmental and social dimensions that could be useful if examined in conjunction with information from other similar international projects.

Hydrogen-related R&D Roadmaps

Australia has not developed a roadmap for hydrogen and related technologies. Such roadmaps are recommended in the National Hydrogen Study, which is still under consideration by the Australian Government.