

MEDIA RELEASE

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TAKING THE LEAD ON GIPPSLAND'S FUTURE ENERGY NEEDS

A major forum on hydrogen's potential as a sustainable fuel for the Latrobe Valley and Gippsland will be held at Federation University Australia's Gippsland campus in August.

The forum will bring together researchers, industry and community with an interest in understanding the pathways to hydrogen production – carbon and electrolysis based – and its opportunities and challenges.

Hydrogen has been described as the fuel for the future, having no emissions other than water. It has a high energy density and is seen as one of the essential pathways to a sustainable, low emissions future.

Research into new technologies and the opportunities to come from hydrogen for Gippsland and beyond will be highlighted at the forum. Community organisations and individuals also will have the chance to have their questions answered at the event.

The forum – *Hydrogen – A Pathway to Environmental and Regional Prosperity: Where to for Gippsland?* – will be held from 8:25am to 4:30pm, on Thursday, 8 August, at the Gippsland campus auditorium. The forum will be held in partnership with Australian Carbon Innovation.

An exciting line-up of speakers including Chief Scientist of Australia, Dr Alan Finkel; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Professor Chris Hutchison; and other distinguished leaders and international representatives will deliver the latest advances in research and industrial applications for hydrogen.

Quotes attributable to Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Helen Bartlett

"The future of energy is extremely topical at the moment, particularly in the Latrobe Valley and Gippsland. As the region transitions out of coal-based energy, it is critical that alternative forms of energy are encouraged and promoted."

"Federation University has a long involvement in energy and carbon research and is playing a significant role in discussions about future energy needs."

"We look forward to the hydrogen forum and furthering our contribution to energy policy and the needs of the regions in which we serve."

Quotes attributable to Australian Carbon Innovation Chief Executive, Brian Davey

"The Gippsland region has a long history of being the powerhouse for the state. Hydrogen presents the opportunity to continue this proud tradition. The region's carbon and renewables resources, along with the skilled workforce and strong education commitment provide the key elements for a successful transition to a new energy economy."