

This month (October 2021) the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER) has commenced consultation with industry and state governments to establish a New Energy Industrial Hub program which is built off the work BZE has conducted.

DISER is particularly interested in specific areas which have been identified as prospective hydrogen hub sites, as identified as part of [Australia's National Hydrogen Strategy](#): Bell Bay, Pilbara, Gladstone, Hunter, Darwin, Eyre Peninsula, and the **Latrobe Valley**.

Private Investor Interest - BZE recently hosted an [investor roundtable](#) with national and global finance leaders, collectively responsible for \$2.7 trillion in assets under management. Global markets are already shifting towards low-carbon investments and REIPs are a chance for Australia to fast track powering heavy industry with renewable energy. Investors are all agreed that there is significant capital potential in our regions and that large-scale precincts solve both the supply and demand sides of the energy transition.

Community Support - To date, BZE's work has largely focused on REIP in Hunter and Central Queensland regions where [40 companies \(over 4,600 employees\) have signed up](#) to the REIP program. Moreover, [economic modelling](#) from ACIL Allen into the potential economic benefits of REIPs in the Hunter & Gladstone is very positive and outlines the potential for 45,000 jobs across both regions by 2032.

BZE is interested in expanding this critical work to additional regions that we have identified as high priority REIP locations - including and especially the Latrobe Valley.

The Latrobe Valley provides a strong structural and industrial footprint to established a thriving Latrobe Renewable Energy Industrial Precinct when coupled with the industry and community buy-in, the right policy settings, and attraction of private capital investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this inquiry and we are more than happy to share in more detail our experiences working with the Hunter Valley and Central Queensland communities to create strong and prosperous futures for historic fossil fuel regions.

Kind regards,

Tom Quinn
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Beyond Zero Emissions