

# Lake plant to provide hydrogen



Graphite Energy's Lake Cargelligo facility.

IT'S expected a system to produce hydrogen in Lake will be completed by July 2025.

Design work began in April this year and a development application is now on display later this month.

The hydrogen project received \$9.8 million in Federal Government funding last year.

The project is part of a large-scale redevelopment of Graphite Energy's Lake Cargelligo facility, which includes a solar farm that will use heat energy to create steam that can then be generated through large turbines to create electricity.

Graphite Energy CEO Peter Lemmich says when completed, several will be on offer.

"I'd say there would be between 10 and 15 new permanent positions that will become available after the completion of the project," Mr Lemmich said.

"Things are going well and I'm hoping if the development application is successful, the first stage will be completed by next September."

The company is working as part of a consortium with Toshiba International Corporation to develop the new green hydrogen system, which will incorporate Graphite Energy's proprietary thermal energy storage.

The Lake Energy Precinct will power new intensive agricultural operations with a source of renewable energy and provide electricity and network support services to the Essential Energy grid.

The energy will include battery, thermal and hydrogen and will be used to power new intensive agricultural operations including:

- agrivoltaics - growing crops and plants underneath solar panels to ensure agricultural land is not removed from production, but rather increased by producing both energy and agricultural produce
- a greenhouse system producing green leaf vegetables,
- an indoor tank-based aquaculture production system for native species,
- reuse and recycling of waste products for fertilizer.

The precinct will also serve as a model to be replicated elsewhere for low carbon agricultural production.

The work will be carried out in four stages comprising of the construction of a PV solar farm, a greenhouse and fish farm, as well as energy storage facilities.

The existing Solar Thermal Power Generation and Research Facility at Lake was developed by Lloyd Energy Systems in 2010.

The Lake Sustainable Energy Precinct is a collaboration between multiple stakeholders, including the Federal Government, the CSIRO and ASTRI, as well as private entities Cygnus Agriculture, Superhectare, Toshiba and others, along with Lake community organisations, such as Down the Track.

The development application closes on December 20, and is available on the Lachlan Shire council website.



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