



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,  
the Environment and Water



Australian Government

Australian Renewable  
Energy Agency

**ARENA**  
10 YEARS

# Hydrogen Headstart Public Consultation

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water  
Australian Renewable Energy Agency  
July 2023





We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

# Disclaimer:

The following presentation was used as part of the Information and Consultation Forums for the Hydrogen Headstart Competitive Round (Competitive Round).

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) are working in collaboration to design the Competitive Round.

The Consultation Paper and this presentation contain the indicative specifications for the Competitive Round, on which DCCEEW and ARENA are seeking stakeholder feedback.

These proposed specifications are indicative only and designed to stimulate input. They should not be taken to presuppose any final design features. The final program design will be developed from input from the consultation process and may differ to the parameters outlined in the Consultation Paper and this presentation.

Should you have any queries or require any clarification in relation to the following presentation, please email [hydrogenheadstart@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:hydrogenheadstart@dcceew.gov.au)

# Agenda

- I. Overview of Australian Government hydrogen initiatives
- II. Hydrogen Headstart consultation:
  1. ARENA's Role in Hydrogen
  2. Overview of Consultation Process
  3. Competitive Round Objectives
  4. Proposed Competitive Round Design
  5. Proposed Merit Criteria & Timetable
  6. Next Steps
  7. Q&A

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# Australian government hydrogen initiatives

Programs underway to help develop Australia's hydrogen industry include:

- \$2 billion Hydrogen Headstart Program
- Review of the National Hydrogen Strategy
- Guarantee of Origin scheme
- Regional Hydrogen Hubs program
- Reviewing Australia's regulatory frameworks
- Annual State of Hydrogen Report
- National Hydrogen Infrastructure Assessment
- Improving workforce skills and training



# National Hydrogen Strategy Review

- Australia is well placed to develop a hydrogen industry – \$300 billion pipeline
- Our Hydrogen Strategy provided the initial steps but was meant to be adapted
- Global environment has transformed since 2019 release – appetite for decarbonisation, clean products, and willingness to secure domestic industry e.g. US IR Act
- Reviewing the strategy reflects an adaptive approach, desire to integrate better with economy-wide decarbonisation, greater global competition for trade in H2 and associated manufactured goods



## Guarantee of Origin Scheme (GO Scheme)



Internationally-aligned scheme to measure, track and verify the carbon emissions and other attributes of Australian clean energy products (including hydrogen and hydrogen energy carriers).



It will enable consumers across domestic and international markets to identify and purchase the products that meet their individual needs.



GO certificates will provide a mechanism to verify production, emissions intensity and renewable electricity use for the Headstart Program.





# First Nations engagement

- Valuing First Nations land and water rights, cultural heritage and genuine engagement with First Nations communities is essential to Australia's social and economic success
- An additional \$2 million has been announced to help First Nations people engage meaningfully with hydrogen project developers
- Our discussions to date with First Nations groups indicates a wide span of understanding and engagement with hydrogen.
- It is common for project proponents to arrive on Country with expectations of rapid approval on land access matters – Traditional Owners are often not well equipped to make well-informed, fact-based decisions



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# AUSTRALIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

KEY STATISTICS 2012-2023

ARENA



INVESTED BY ARENA

**\$2.25B**



PROJECTS

**663**



TOTAL PROJECT VALUE

**\$9.75B**



INVESTMENT LEVERAGE

**\$1:\$3.32**



INVESTMENT BY TECHNOLOGY

BIOENERGY

**\$131M**



GEOTHERMAL

**\$42M**



GRID INTEGRATION

**\$386M**



HYBRID

**\$112M**



HYDROGEN

**\$247M**



OCEAN

**\$44M**



SOLAR PV

**\$818M**



SOLAR THERMAL

**\$242M**



STORAGE - BATTERIES/PHES

**\$231M**



INVESTMENT BY STATE

**NT**

PROJECTS  
8  
INVESTED  
\$40M  
VALUE  
\$82M

**WA**

PROJECTS  
43  
INVESTED  
\$253M  
VALUE  
\$1.97B

**SA**

PROJECTS  
58  
INVESTED  
\$214M  
VALUE  
\$837M

**TAS**

PROJECTS  
21  
INVESTED  
\$40M  
VALUE  
\$99M

**VIC**

PROJECTS  
119  
INVESTED  
\$270M  
VALUE  
\$625M

**QLD**

PROJECTS  
70  
INVESTED  
\$334M  
VALUE  
\$2.32B

**NSW**

PROJECTS  
270  
INVESTED  
\$1.02B\*  
VALUE  
\$3.58B

**ACT**

PROJECTS  
74  
INVESTED  
\$81M  
VALUE  
\$233M

INVESTMENT LEVERAGE ALONG THE INNOVATION CHAIN

STUDY

**\$1:\$2.07**



R&D

**\$1:\$1.76**



DEMONSTRATION

**\$1:\$1.87**



DEPLOYMENT

**\$1:\$5.67**



\* Includes \$567 million contributed to projects inherited by ARENA in 2012.

# Investment Priorities



**OPTIMISE THE  
TRANSITION TO  
RENEWABLE  
ELECTRICITY**



**COMMERCIALISE  
CLEAN  
HYDROGEN**



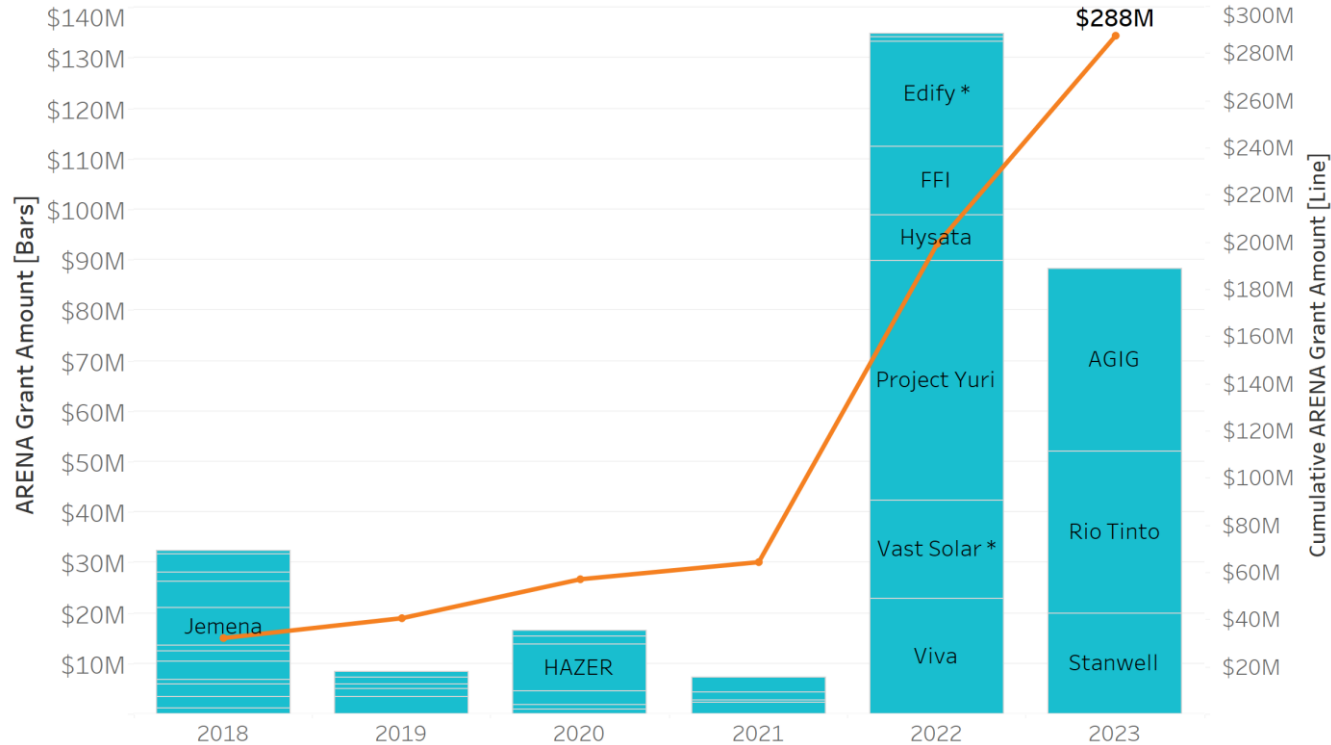
**SUPPORT THE  
TRANSITION TO  
LOW EMISSIONS  
METALS**



**DECARBONISE  
LAND  
TRANSPORT**



# ARENA has committed \$288 million to 45 projects to seed Australia's hydrogen industry



# Yara Pilbara Renewable Ammonia Project

Feasibility study leading to funding approval for deployment of a renewable hydrogen and renewable ammonia production and export facility (using a 10 MW electrolyser)

*Feasibility - 2020 - \$995k ARENA funding | Deployment - 2021 - \$47.5m approved ARENA funding*



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# Rio Tinto and Sumitomo Hydrogen Calcination Pilot

Feasibility study leading to funding approval for a trial of hydrogen calcination technology at the Yarwun alumina refinery in Gladstone (using a 2.5 MW electrolyser)

*Feasibility - 2021 - \$580k ARENA funding | Pilot - 2023 - \$32.1m approved ARENA funding*



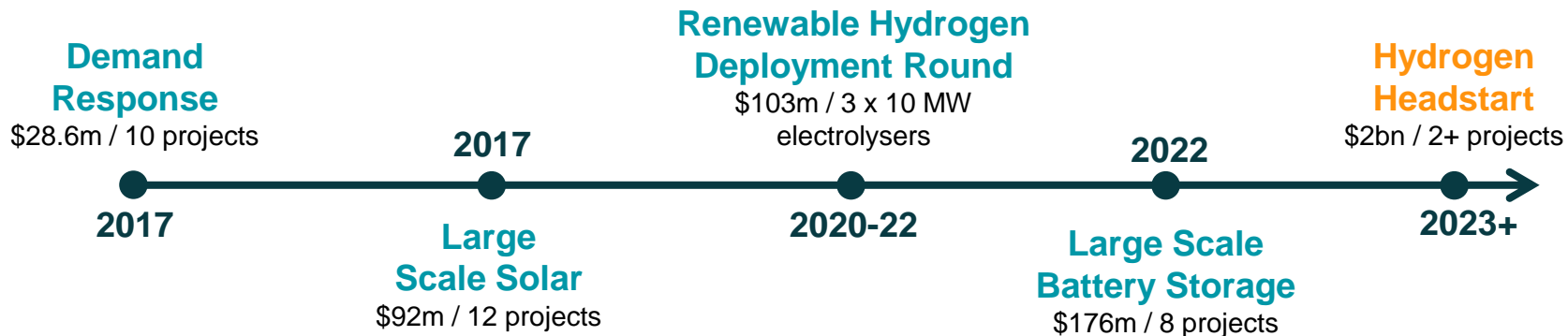
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## Recent key competitive rounds





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# Background to Hydrogen Headstart

On 9 May 2023, the Australian Government announced it will invest **\$2.0 billion** in the new **Hydrogen Headstart** program.

The Program reflects a responsive approach to global market signals and intends to **bridge the commercial gap** for early projects, putting Australia on course for **up to a gigawatt of electrolyser capacity by 2030** through **at least two large-scale projects**.

The Program will use a **competitive process** (Competitive Round), expected to focus on cost and deliverability, to select **large Australian-based projects** producing either hydrogen or hydrogen derivative products, produced from **renewable energy**.

Successful projects will be able to receive a **production credit over a 10-year period** to cover the commercial gap between the cost of hydrogen produced from renewables and the expected sales price.

# Consultation Process Overview

## We are seeking feedback on the proposed specifications for the Hydrogen Headstart Program

Your input will help ensure the Program:

- Is fit for purpose to deliver on the Government's objectives
- Provides the greatest impact for the sector

## Feedback provided through today's Public Forum and in written form will be used to develop the final Program guidelines

- Today's Public Forum will go over key points of the paper
- The consultation paper is **indicative only**, and final program design will be developed following consultation
- We encourage participants to submit a detailed written response by:
  - Completing the form on the DCCEEW website
  - Emailing: [hydrogenheadstart@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:hydrogenheadstart@dcceew.gov.au)
- The consultation period will **close Thursday 3 August 2023**

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# Hydrogen Headstart: Competitive Round Objectives



Produce renewable hydrogen at **scale in Australia**, facilitating an **accelerated pathway to the technical and commercial viability** of renewable hydrogen production and use at scale in Australia.



Support **domestic decarbonisation**, **build industry capability** and provide for **new economic opportunities** in our manufacturing and export industries.



Provide **price discovery and transparency** in relation to current and projected economics for renewable hydrogen (and derivatives), by sharing actual and forecast economics of applications received.



Reduce barriers for future deployments through **attracting private sector capital** (debt, equity & offtake).



Develop and retain **investment, skilled labour, intellectual property and supply chains** for a **domestic hydrogen industry**



Facilitate **knowledge sharing** throughout industry to assist with maturing the Australian hydrogen industry.

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## Proposed eligibility requirements (1/2)



### Technology

- **New deployment of electrolysis/renewable hydrogen production facilities**
- May utilise existing energy generation or hydrogen end use infrastructure
- Must be **renewable hydrogen and 100% powered by one or more of:**
  - behind the meter renewables,
  - grid electricity where LGCs or other certificates eligible under the GO scheme are surrendered to match 100% of electricity use, or
  - electricity from a renewable generation PPA with associated retirement of LGCs
- Hydrogen produced using coal gasification or SMR coupled with CCS will not be eligible
- Need to **comply with the proposed GO Scheme** (under development)



## Proposed eligibility requirements (2/2)



### Eligible end uses / offtake

- All end uses of hydrogen or hydrogen derivative products are eligible
- There will be consideration of the balance between export and domestic use



### Project size

- **50MW minimum; unrestricted maximum**



### Location

- **Within Australia**; Does not need to be in a Government H2 hub region

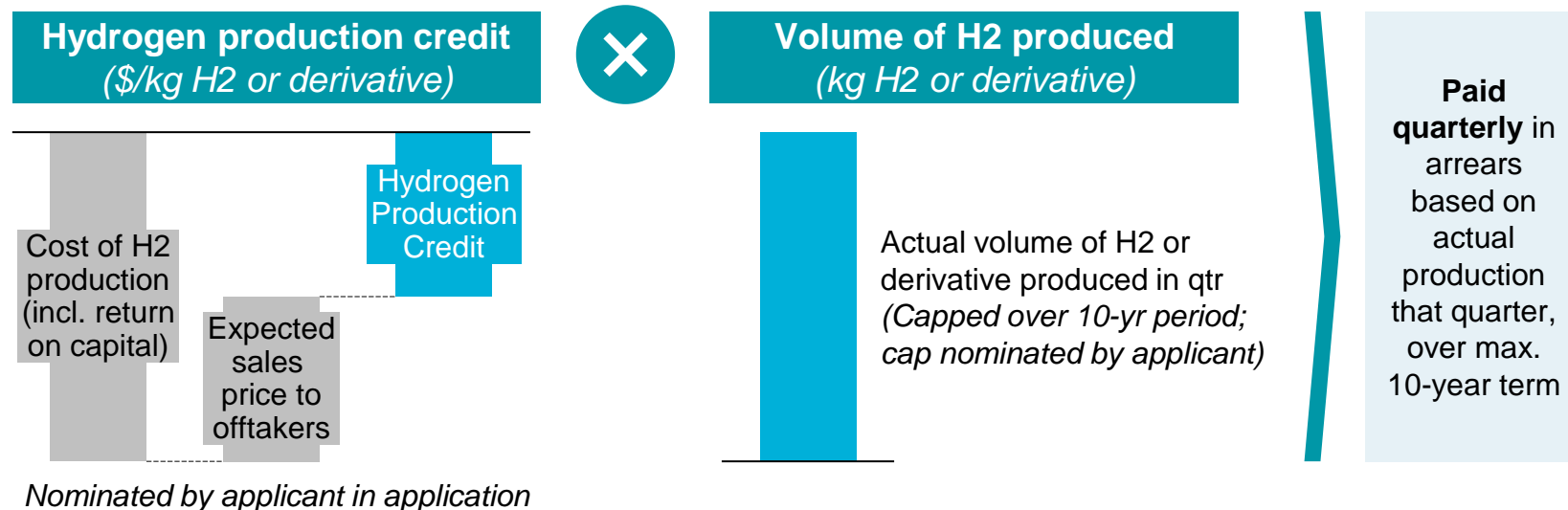


### Other

- Must be for a **single site** deployment.
- Must have a **valid commercial case** for the end use of hydrogen.
- Applications must include a **commercialisation (cost reduction) pathway analysis**



## Proposed funding mechanism



## Proposed mechanism for upside sharing or reduction in funding



### Upside sharing

50/50

- Upside arising from **decreased operating costs or increased sales price** over the contract term will be shared 50/50
- Recipients will be required to report on quantity, sales price and cost of production
- If the **sales price materially exceeds the level of support required** within the 10 years, recipients will be required to pay back an amount of the Govt support received in previous years

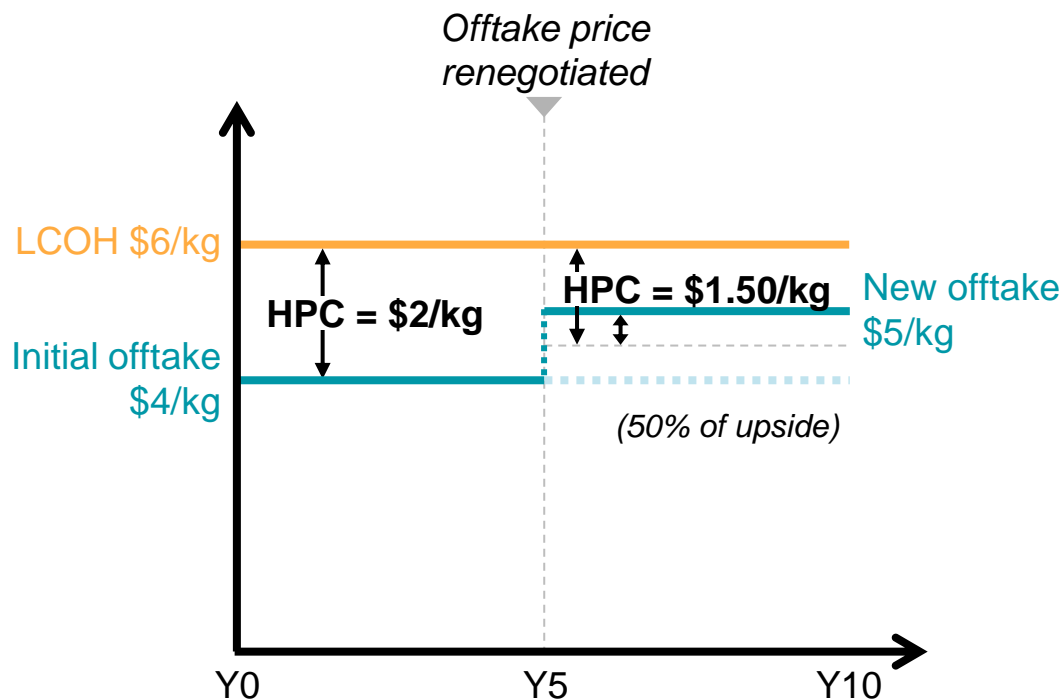


### Downside sharing

Nil

- As funding is capped, agreed **Hydrogen Production Credit will not be increased** in the event of higher capital or operating costs than expected

## Case study example – upside sharing (1/2)



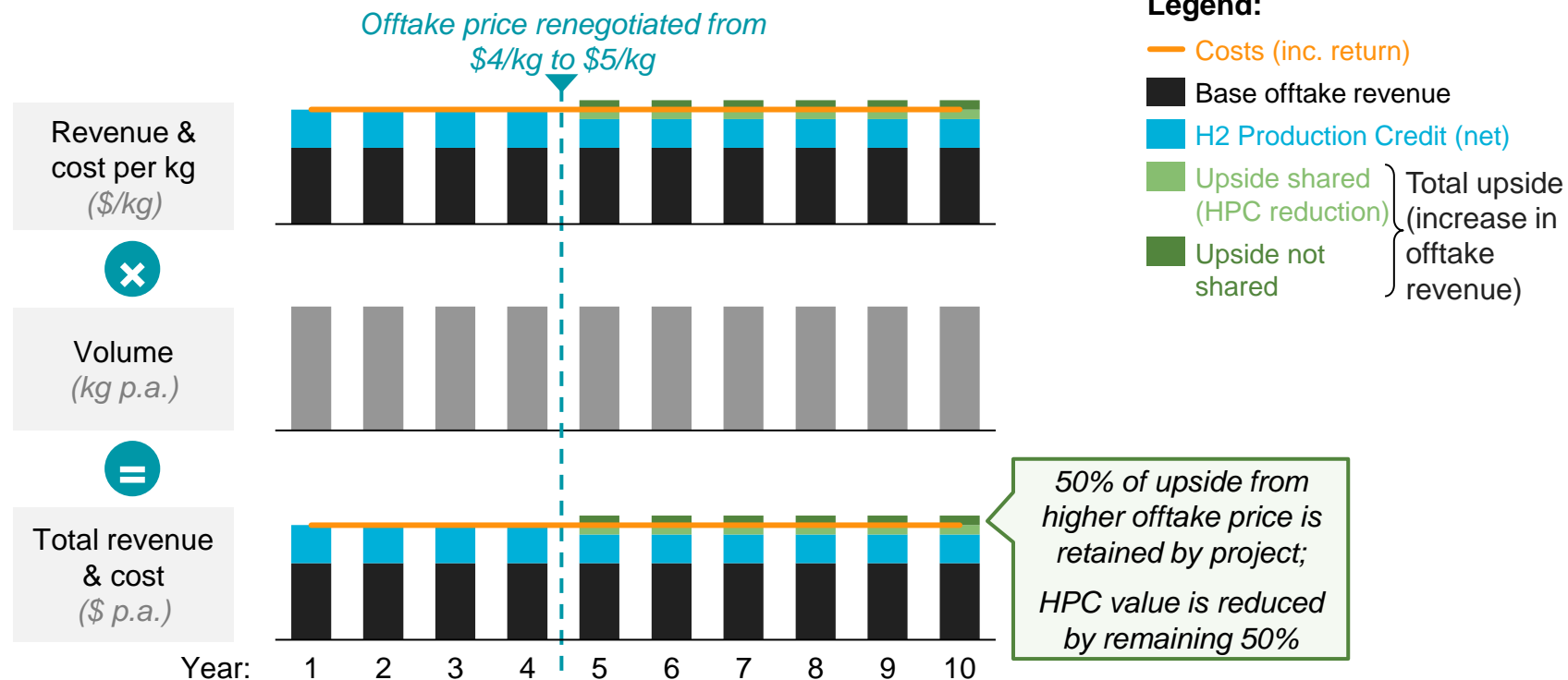
### Case study details:

- LCOH \$6/kg
- Initial offtake of \$4/kg renegotiated to \$5/kg at yr 5

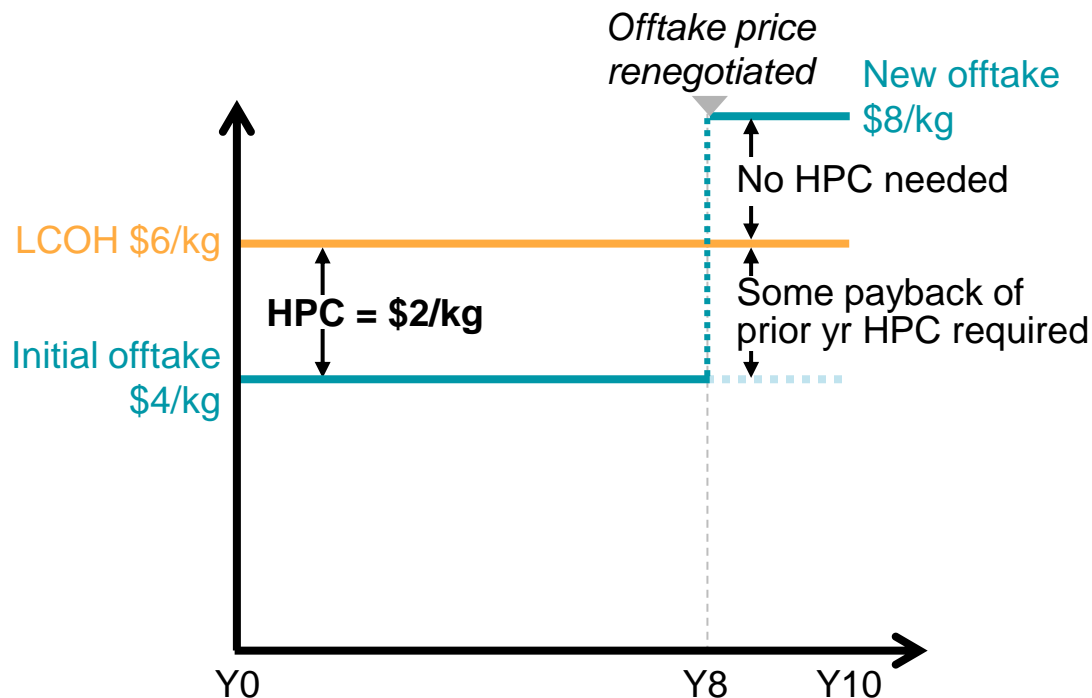
### Impact of renegotiation:

- Offtake revenue increases
- Initial HPC of \$2/kg reduced to \$1.50/kg (sharing 50% of \$1/kg upside)
- Annual subsidy decreases

## Case study example – upside sharing (2/2)



## Case study example – payback scenario (1/2)



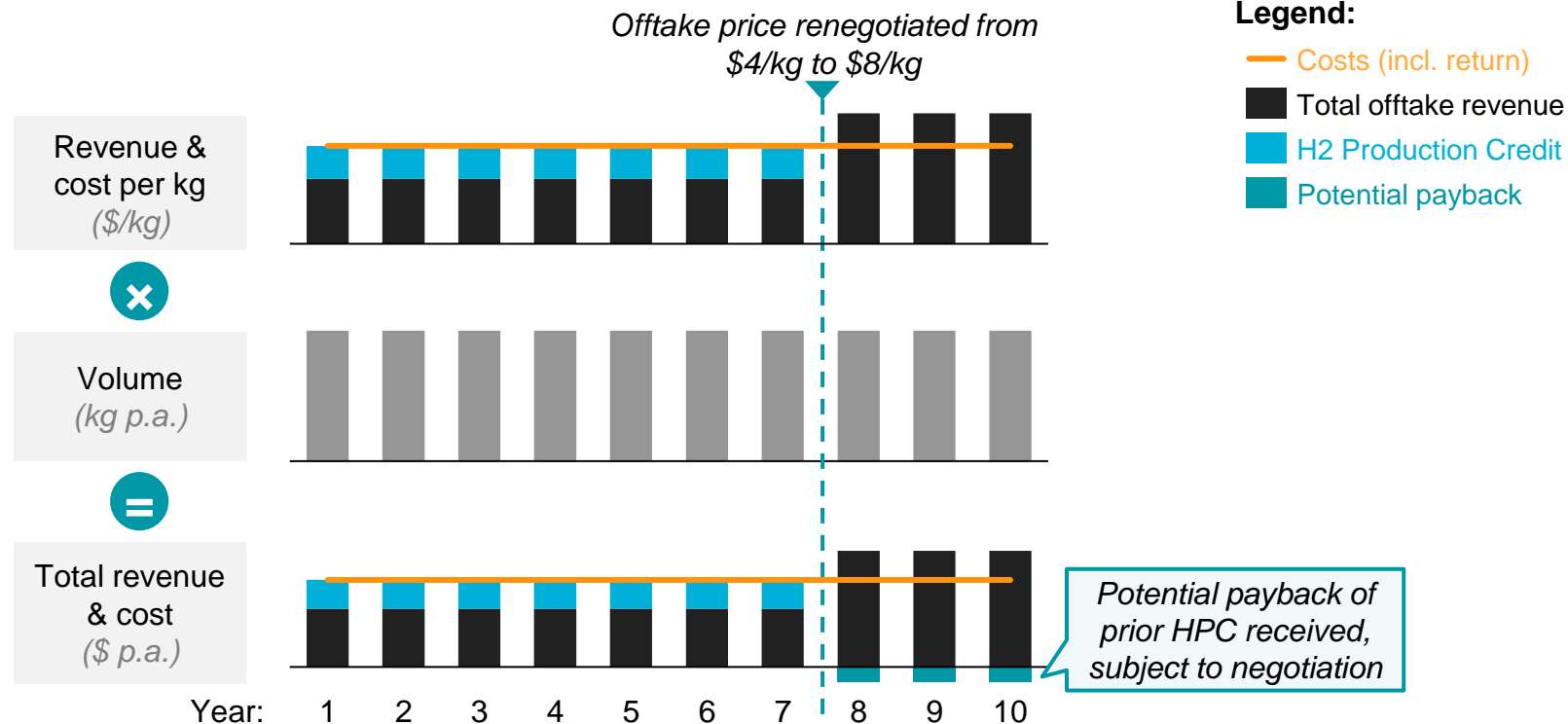
### Case study details:

- LCOH \$6/kg
- Initial offtake of \$4/kg renegotiated to \$8/kg at yr 8

### Impact of renegotiation:

- Initial HPC of \$2/kg reduced to nil at yr 8 as revenue > LCOH (no subsidy needed)
- Producer required to pay back an amount of the subsidy received in prior years (value determined at the time)

## Case study example – payback scenario (2/2)

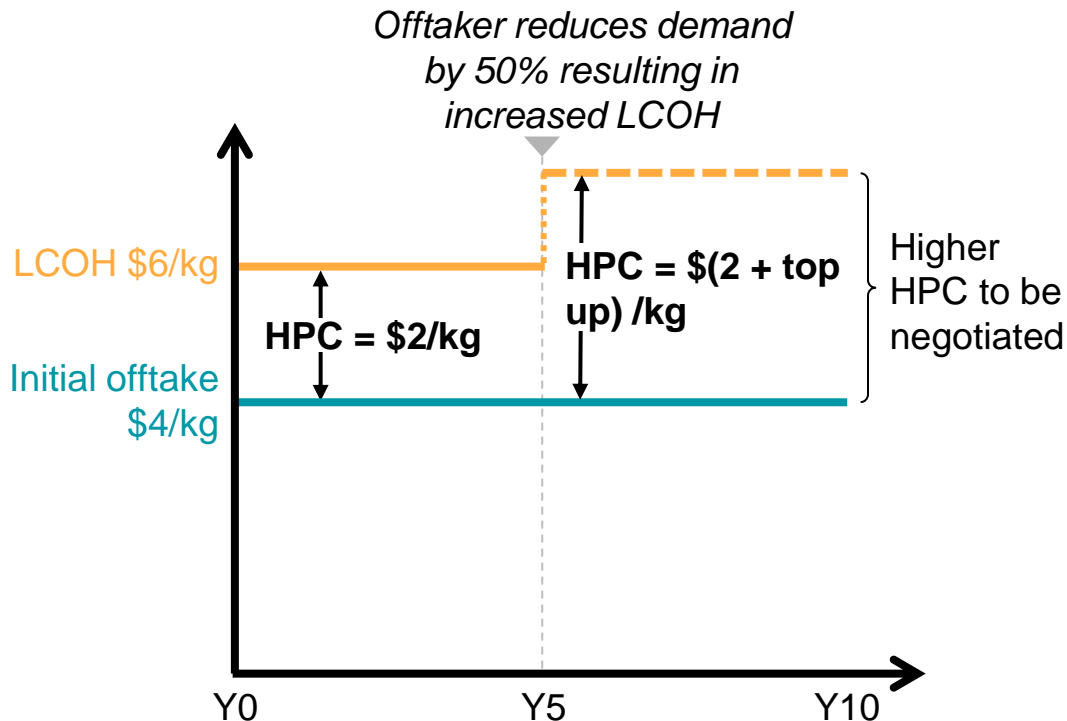


# Volume risk support mechanism

Some international programs include volume risk as a contractual component  
Key features of these include:

Example mechanism	Purpose
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Top-up payment</b> on qualifying volume when <b>total volumes sold are less than a certain percentage of forecast volumes from offtake customers</b></li><li>• In other programs, volume risk support is paid to recipients through an <b>increased hydrogen production credit for each kilogram of hydrogen produced</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mitigates the risk for recipients that offtake customers unexpectedly reduce demand and sales fall below the recipient's fixed costs.</b> This ensures proponents can still, at a minimum, service debt repayments but are structured such that returns cannot be improved</li><li>• <b>Plant must be available to qualify</b></li></ul>

## Case study example – volume risk (1/2)



### Case study details:

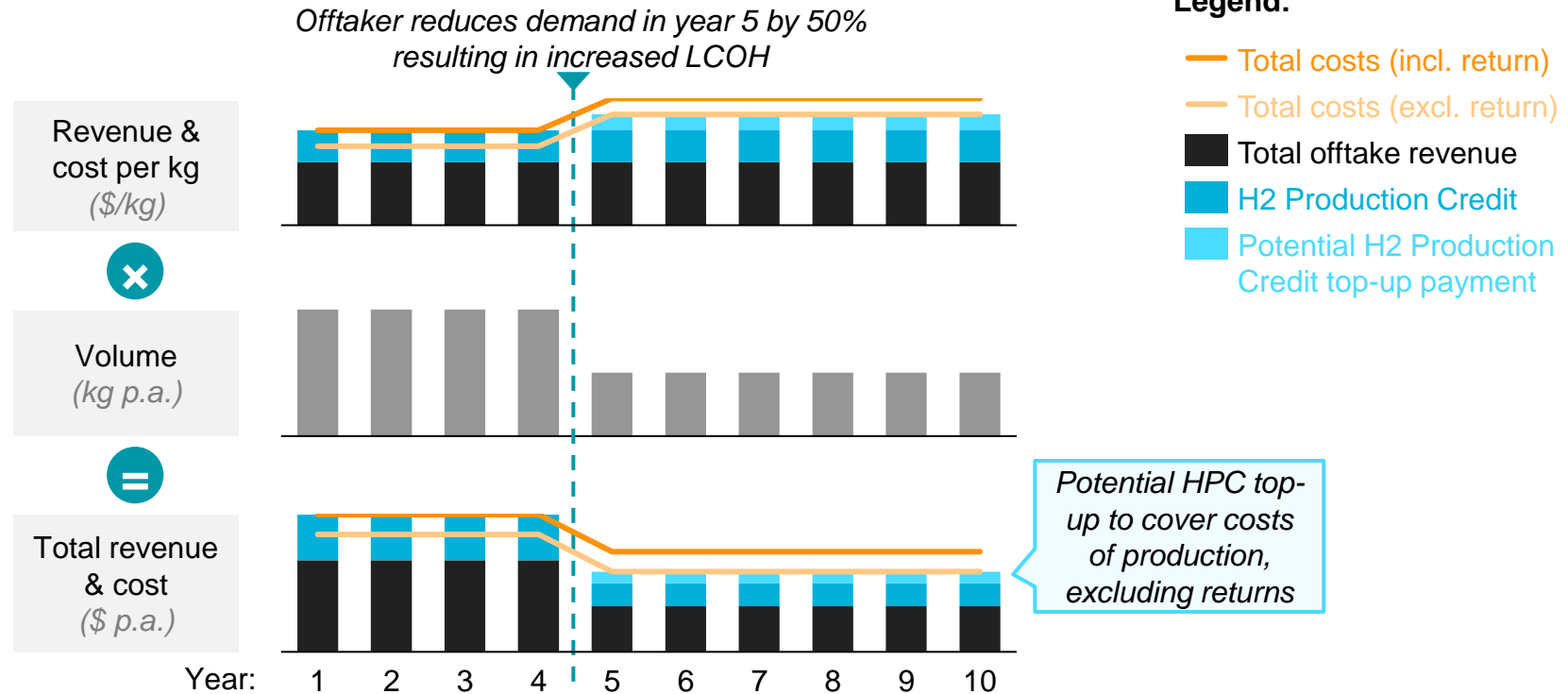
- LCOH \$6/kg & Offtake \$4/kg
- Offtaker volumes decrease by 50%

### Impact of renegotiation:

- Initial HPC of \$2/kg increased from yr 5 (including top up payment as agreed)
- Adjusted subsidy amount



## Case study example – volume risk (2/2)



## Proposed payment frequency & term

### Payment frequency

- **Quarterly in arrears**

### Payment timing

- Available **from FY27**
- Over **maximum 10-year term**
- **Commencing on agreed start date**, linked to commercial operations & sunset dates in key offtake agreements

### Payment termination

- Funding may be **terminated** if the project **ceases development or is materially delayed**, as agreed by the parties



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## Proposed merit criteria

### Merit Criterion A

Alignment to  
Competitive  
Round Objectives

### Merit Criterion B

Applicant  
Capability &  
Capacity

### Merit Criterion C

Scope,  
Methodology,  
Deliverability &  
Risk

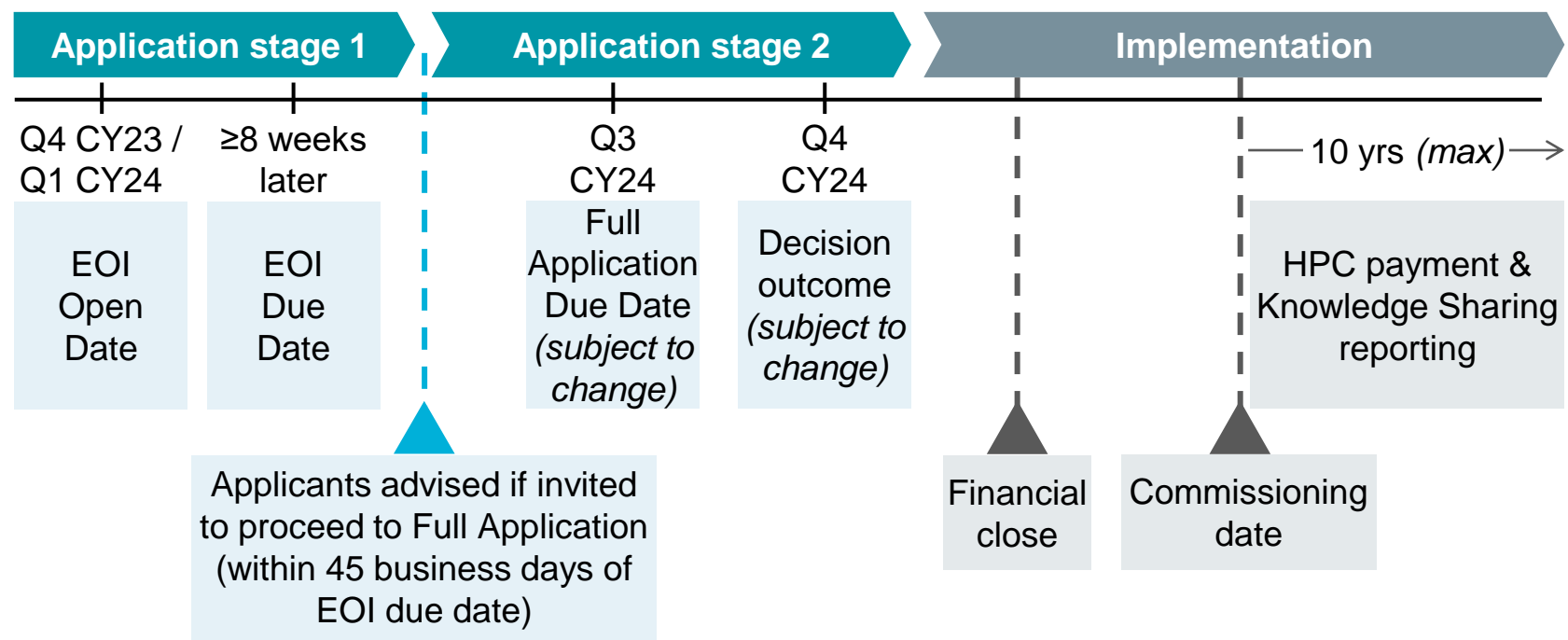
### Merit Criterion D

Financial  
Capability

### Merit Criterion E

Knowledge  
Sharing

# Proposed assessment process timetable



Dates are subject to change

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## Next steps

Submit a written  
response to the  
consultation  
paper by  
3 Aug 2023

- Review detailed consultation paper at:  
<https://consult.dcceew.gov.au/hydrogen-headstart-program-consultation>
- Stakeholders can provide a response to the consultation paper by:
  - Submitting via the DCCEEW Consultation Hub
  - Emailing: [hydrogenheadstart@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:hydrogenheadstart@dcceew.gov.au)
- The consultation period will close **Thursday 3 August 2023**

Stay informed  
via DCCEEW  
website

- Stay informed with the latest updates via the DCCEEW website:  
<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/energy/hydrogen/hydrogen-headstart-program>
- EOIs targeted to open in Q4 2023 / Q1 2024

# Tips to maximise feedback impact

1

## Submit a detailed response to the consultation paper

- Ensure your responses are detailed and contain reasoning to support your feedback if your views diverge from the proposed specifications

2

## Submit details on any hydrogen project(s) you are developing

- Don't forget to provide us with details of any hydrogen project(s) you are currently developing that may seek support under the Hydrogen Headstart Program

3

## Remember: the consultation period closes Thursday 3 August 2023

- If you have additional feedback, email [hydrogenheadstart@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:hydrogenheadstart@dcceew.gov.au)



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**Further information:**

**<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/energy/hydrogen/hydrogen-headstart-program>**