



# ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

Iron Road Limited (Iron Road, ASX:IRD)



## THE HYDROGEN UTILITY JOINS IRON ROAD IN CAPE HARDY DEVELOPMENT

**Agreement creates pathway for Australia's first green  
credentialed manufacturing and export complex**

### Highlights

- Heads of Agreement and Project Development Accord introduces foundation partner, The Hydrogen Utility, to green manufacturing precinct at the Cape Hardy port development.
- The Hydrogen Utility to build large-scale green hydrogen production and export hub. Complements existing partnership between Iron Road and Eyre Peninsula Cooperative Bulk Handling (EPCBH) to export grains from freight advantaged location for the region's growers.
- Underscores the strategic value of the Cape Hardy site to unlock regional growth opportunities currently constrained by the lack of modern and efficient port infrastructure in South Australia.
- Engagement with potential CEIP investors on the recently revised and lower risk iron ore project delivery model continues. Lower capital hurdle and more efficient mine plan has driven greater value and optionality for an advanced, high grade iron concentrate development opportunity.

**Iron Road Limited** (Iron Road, ASX: IRD) is pleased to announce that the Company has signed a Heads of Agreement and Project Development Accord (the Agreement) with The Hydrogen Utility™ (H2U), an Australian hydrogen infrastructure developer and renewable energy integrator. Iron Road and H2U will work collectively to develop the green manufacturing precinct at Cape Hardy.

With support under the South Australian Government's Renewable Technology Fund (RTF), H2U expects to commence site development of the 'Green Hydrogen and Ammonia Supply Chain Demonstrator', a distributed electrolysis and ammonia production facility early next year at nearby Port Lincoln. Cape Hardy was identified by H2U as the preferred location for future development of a larger green hydrogen production and export hub. In addition to technical investigations to be undertaken by H2U, the new 200 hectare green manufacturing precinct will now be incorporated into the Master Plan for the 1100 hectare Cape Hardy site. H2U and Iron Road will also jointly develop a commercialisation pathway and engage with synergistic investors.

Iron Road Managing Director, Mr Andrew Stocks, noted that the Central Eyre Iron Project (CEIP) will unlock significant benefits well beyond the project's mining and ore processing operations.

"The Cape Hardy deep water port proposal is a true multi-user, multi-commodity model, unlike anything else proposed in the Country. This was a key driver of Infrastructure Australia's positive business case evaluation and subsequent recognition of the port as a Priority Project for the nation. With EPCBH and H2U, we are catering for mineral, agricultural, and clean energy exports.

"The unique location, and scale of the Cape Hardy industrial port development, offers the opportunity to grow a green manufacturing precinct without impacting an adjacent population centre.

"Unlocking the port potential is also expected to have a positive impact on investment discussions for the wider Central Eyre Iron Project development.

"We welcome the addition of H2U and look forward to working with their team, EPCBH and others to advance this exciting project," Mr Stocks said.

H2U CEO, Dr Attilio Pigneri said that the green manufacturing precinct will seek to satisfy the growing world demand for decarbonised industrial products and energy.

"The Hydrogen infrastructure to be built at Cape Hardy, integrated with the world-class renewable energy resource on the Eyre Peninsula positions the region to grow exports as the markets for decarbonised energy and industrial chemicals in North Asia grow.

"This provides an enormous opportunity for further manufacturing industries to develop and value add to the agricultural, mineral and energy resources of the Peninsula. It opens up an entirely new, green manufacturing precinct for South Australia to grow the regional and State economy and employment," Dr Pigneri said.

The Agreement with H2U is complementary to the existing agreement with famers' cooperative, EPCBH, where the parties are working together to develop a new grain supply chain network utilising the facilities at Cape Hardy. The rapidly changing nature of grain consolidation and collection in the region has once again highlighted the importance of an alternative grains export pathway. EPCBH's Chair Mr Bruce Heddle said that EPCBH was pleased to see the Cape Hardy precinct open to a new industry.

"Cape Hardy will provide an important alternate route to market for produce grown by the region's 700 farming families. We welcome the incorporation of the green manufacturing precinct at Cape Hardy and look forward to working with H2U to explore the potential distribution of locally produced ammonia.

"This announcement provides an interesting backdrop and optimism in contrast to the current situation where we have seen grain infrastructure closures and resulting loss of flexibility," Mr Heddle said.

Regional Development Australia, Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula (RDAWEP) is a strong advocate for the project. CEO, Mr Dion Dorward, commented that the agreements are proactively supported by RDAWEP's strategy to diversify the region's economy, be globally competitive and improve energy and freight supply chains.

### **Central Eyre Iron Project Update**

Engagement with investors and potential project partners on the less capital intensive and lower risk revised CEIP delivery model continues. Mr Stocks added, "While the stock market continues to have little appetite for development projects that require a significant financing, we remain encouraged by levels of engagement shown by certain parties with respect to reassessing the value proposition and optionality for an advanced, high grade iron concentrate development opportunity."

- ENDS -

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**About the Hydrogen Utility (H2U)**

H2U is a privately-funded technology company focused on the production of decarbonised (green) Hydrogen and hydrogen derivative chemicals from electrolysis using flexible supplies of renewable energy to meet the growing global market for decarbonised products.

H2U partners with the global supply chains for Hydrogen technologies and equipment manufacturers to match their proprietary technology and competencies in Hydrogen production to integrate these Hydrogen technologies with renewable energy supplies.

H2U is the developer of the Port Lincoln Green H2/NH3 Supply Chain Demonstrator, a 30-40 MW electrolysis and distributed ammonia production plant at Port Lincoln on the Eyre Peninsula.

H2U is actively engaging with the emerging hydrogen economies in North Asia, and has been inducted in the Green Ammonia Consortium, launched in Tokyo on July 1, 2019.

**About Eyre Peninsula Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited (EPCBH)**

Formed in August 2017 by a group of prominent Eyre Peninsula farmers, EPCBH will pursue opportunities to improve competitiveness for grain growers. EPCBH aims to enhance returns to growers and farm businesses using a collaborative approach. During the past 10 years EP farmers have grown an average of 2.5 million tonnes of grain each year, with over 90% of that grain exported. The strong penetration by others, such as the Ukraine and Russia, into Australia's traditional export markets in Southeast Asia, demands that storage and handling chains be globally competitive.

