



## DRAFT SOCIAL LICENCE PRINCIPLES

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### Request for views

We are seeking views on draft principles for a social licence undertaking for the hydrogen industry, as shown below.

Views are sought by **cob Friday 16 October 2020**. Please send your input to **[fsimon@h2council.com.au](mailto:fsimon@h2council.com.au)**.

### Draft principles

#### 1. Working with communities

- a) We will listen, share information, and engage fairly and respectfully with project host communities, including Traditional Owners of the land.
- b) We will seek input on project impacts, benefits and outcomes for host communities, and will prioritise addressing any negative impacts identified.
- c) We will provide transparent, timely, and responsive community access to relevant project decisionmakers throughout a project's lifecycle.

#### 2. Supporting and developing people

- a) We will support local economies by providing training, employment, and manufacturing/procurement opportunities wherever possible.
- b) We will design and manage projects using best practice in safety standards as a commitment to our employees and host communities.

#### 3. Managing natural resources responsibly

- a) We will demonstrate responsible resource management and seek to maintain and enhance the ecological and cultural value of land and water within host communities.
- b) We will work with communities to maximise local benefits resulting from the responsible decommissioning or refurbishment/repowering of sites.
- c) We will work proactively and transparently with regulators.

## Background

### The requirement

The National Hydrogen Strategy (NHS) requires the Australian Hydrogen Council (AHC) to develop an industry undertaking (such as a charter) to guide the development of Australia's hydrogen industry.

The undertaking will specify appropriate principles to safeguard the community, communicate issues and engage with regulators.

Consistent with community expectations of social licence undertakings, the industry is also expected to:

- provide accurate information and respond to community concerns in a way that meets both legislative requirements and community expectations; and
- work with local communities to ensure benefits are distributed as fairly as possible.

### The approach taken

AHC created a working group of members and representatives from governments and academic institutions to address the matter of social licence and the industry undertaking.

To support the working group, AHC surveyed its members and key stakeholders in May 2020 to obtain views about how it might consider and develop the industry undertaking.

Following further discussion with the working group about the survey outcomes and the best direction for the project, it was determined that in the first instance the undertaking would:

- reflect a set of principles for working with local communities;
- demonstrate an intent to avoid harm and share benefit;
- be based on relevant precedents and approaches; and
- be complemented in time with fact sheets and other communications.

We assessed similar undertakings from the renewable energy, finance, and mining industries, and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and drafted principles that were then discussed and revised by the AHC working group.

The resulting draft principles attached are now for broader consultation. Please note these can be used for hydrogen production for all applications, including export.

## References

<https://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/advocacy-initiatives/community-engagement/best-practice-charter>

<https://www.icmm.com/mining-principles>

[https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/Topics\\_Ext\\_Content/IFC\\_External\\_Corporate\\_Site/Sustainability-At-IFC/Policies-Standards/Performance-Standards](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/Topics_Ext_Content/IFC_External_Corporate_Site/Sustainability-At-IFC/Policies-Standards/Performance-Standards)

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>