



# MURCHISON GREEN HYDROGEN


## What we've heard

On Wednesday 27 March 2024 the Murchison Green Hydrogen project team welcomed members of the Kalbarri community to two drop-in information sessions. Our intent during these sessions was to share the recently developed visualisations. The visualisations indicate how visible the project's wind turbines will be from several locations around Kalbarri.

During the drop-in sessions we were asked questions about and provided feedback on the project. We want to share with you what we heard during those sessions, our responses and how we will be incorporating this feedback as the project progresses.

### MGH response

#### Topic of interest



Attendees are interested in obtaining more detailed information about the project.

The project is still in its concept development stage. This means we are currently undertaking many environmental, heritage, social, engineering and design studies to determine the answers to a lot of the questions we are being asked. Our team is working on obtaining more information and data which we will provide once it becomes available.

To ensure all interested stakeholders have an opportunity to find out more about the project, we will be diversifying the types of engagement we undertake to include online webinars, regular project newsletters and website updates over the coming months.

If you would like to ensure you receive all of our project updates, please subscribe to our newsletter [here](#).



There is concern about climate change and its impact on weather patterns, natural disasters and communities.


Some community members believe recent weather events in the region and over east are concerning and that there is a need to do more about climate change.

They are concerned about the consequences of global warming and understand the role the project will play in helping to transition from fossil fuels and towards a better future for their children and grandchildren.

They expressed their understanding that projects like Murchison Green Hydrogen are needed and have to be located in areas where natural resources are abundant. Their concern is that if such projects don't go ahead, Kalbarri and the wider region will still be significantly impacted by the effects of climate change.

## MGH response

### Topic of interest




There is a desire to see Kalbarri thrive through the project's benefits sharing.

There is a concern that Kalbarri lacks the services and amenities it needs to thrive.

We heard that Kalbarri relies heavily on a limited number of volunteers who support the community and that this is unsustainable. Kalbarri needs more people and businesses to get the funding and services it needs from government.

Lack of economic opportunity, housing, staff, stable electricity supply and health services mean people and businesses won't come to Kalbarri or find it too hard to keep their doors open.


The project offers an opportunity for the community to thrive and get the training, jobs, businesses and improved housing, education, health, aged care and recreational opportunities that is needed to sustain it in the long term.



Some attendees are concerned about the overall impact of the project.

We recognise some stakeholders' concerns regarding change to the community as a result of this project. We're taking measures to understand and avoid negative impacts from the project where possible and are working with the community and other stakeholders to mitigate or offset impacts where they cannot be avoided all together.

We believe that the benefits this project will bring to the community will be significant, such as the creation of local jobs and economic development opportunities for the town and the development of a Community Investment Program which will be co-developed by the community and for the community. Ideas shared with us already include the redevelopment of the Kalbarri foreshore, a new multi-purpose sporting and evacuation community centre and improvements to Kalbarri's power supply.




Some attendees want to know more about how the project may affect existing industries.

We know that fishing, including rock lobster fishing, and tourism are key industries in Kalbarri and there is interest in exploring potential compensation for commercial fishers. Other attendees raised concerns related to the impacts the project may have on the cost of living and housing in the area.

Potential impacts to fishing, tourism and the cost of living are still being investigated and are unknown at this time. Our ongoing studies into the economic and social impacts of the project will give us a stronger understanding of what impacts may look like.

In conjunction with our Community Investment Program, which is being co-designed with community representatives, these studies will enable us to best consider how we can enhance project opportunities and avoid, mitigate or offset negative impacts.



Some attendees are concerned about potential impacts on the environment.

This project is undergoing the highest level of environmental impact assessment and will be overseen by both the state and federal environmental regulators.

As part of the environmental impact assessment, we will be submitting our findings on everything from bird life to brine discharge back into the ocean, and from clearing requirements to impacts on rock lobsters and whales. Environmental surveys and studies are currently being undertaken on land and in the ocean. We will share the results of these studies in our Public Environmental Review document in early 2025.

Topic of interest



Some attendees would like clarity about water sources for construction and operation of the plant.

Water requirements for the construction of the project are unknown at this time. Construction water will be sourced from groundwater and/or desalinated sea water. However, Kalbarri's drinking water will not be impacted.

Before we can use any water, Murchison Green Hydrogen will have to undergo environmental studies and assessment. The government will then allocate how much water can be used and/or how much brine can be sustainably returned to the ocean.

It is our intention that all operational water will be sourced from desalinated sea water. Brine that is discharged from this process will disperse very quickly in the dynamic sea states, will be closely monitored and will be regulated by the government. To receive the environmental approval required for the project to go ahead, it will have to be demonstrated that the brine discharged into the ocean will not impact marine flora and fauna.

The desalination plant for the project will not be dissimilar to other desalination plants already constructed and in operation in WA.



Some attendees are interested in potential changes to accessibility to the coast and Murchison House Station.

The Murchison Green Hydrogen project's marine-based infrastructure has been designed for minimum impact. The Mid West Ports Authority will determine the exclusion zones around the marine infrastructure. Once this has been established we will be able to share this information.

The project is currently working with the local rock lobster fishing industry and the Mid West Ports Authority to set the exclusion zones, whilst maintaining coastal passage and access as much as possible.

While public access to Murchison House Station will change if the project goes ahead, we understand the importance of the Station to the community. As the project develops we will work with stakeholders to understand areas of importance to the community and determine what areas will and won't remain accessible.



Some attendees are concerned about the visibility of the wind turbines.

While there are many considerations to take into account regarding wind turbine locations—including impact on flora, fauna, and heritage sites, and wind availability—minimising visibility is a priority and where possible, turbines will be micro-sited to reduce their visual impact. As the visualisations at the drop-in sessions depicted, however, some of the turbines will be visible from certain points around Kalbarri.

We can confirm however, the turbines will not be required to be lit for aviation purposes and will therefore not be visible at night.



Some attendees want to understand more about the risks associated with ammonia production and export.

All aspects of the production, storage and transportation of hydrogen and ammonia will need to be assessed, regulated and overseen by the state's safety regulator.

We are currently undertaking studies to understand and address the specific risk of an ammonia leak. These findings will form part of our environmental impact assessment and be considered as part of the environmental approval decision made by the government.

With 180 million tonnes of ammonia produced and 20 million tonnes shipped around the world each year, the technology and infrastructure used to produce, store and transport ammonia has proven safe and reliable. There will be no smell of ammonia in Kalbarri.



Some attendees want to know more about how dust and vibrations will affect Kalbarri during construction and operation.

With the closest wind turbine being 16 km away from Kalbarri and the production facilities being approximately 38-40 kilometers away, we do not anticipate dust, vibration or noise impacts during construction or operation.



Some attendees would like a townhall-style meeting for the entire community to attend.

We recognise the desire in the community for another townhall event—in distinction to the drop-in sessions recently run.

We are planning on hosting a townhall in Kalbarri towards the end of the year. The reason for this timing is:

- To ensure we have as much survey data available to answer as many of your questions as possible.
- To ensure we have specific subject matter experts available for engagement.
- To ensure we are able to update you on the approvals process, including your opportunity to provide comment.





Will the community have a say?

Insights gathered through consultation with the community are considered during the project concept development stage and will help inform the final project design and layout.

The Environmental Review Document will be published for public comment by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation in Q1 2025.



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