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**For immediate release**

## **CopperString 2.0 critical for Townsville's green hydrogen potential.**

CopperString 2.0, the proposed high voltage network extending the national grid from Townsville to the North West Minerals Province, will be essential to power North Queensland's enormous green hydrogen potential.

Speaking ahead of the Queensland Government's Hydrogen Working Group meeting in Townsville tomorrow, CuString Executive Chairman Mr John O'Brien said that the company's project would link Australia's best solar and wind resources with hydrogen production facilities in Townsville to create a world-leading hydrogen export hub.

Mr O'Brien said the development of a northern Queensland hydrogen industry had accelerated more quickly than anticipated with global industrial businesses such as Korea Zinc and their subsidiaries Ark Energy and Sun Metals, Origin Energy and Kawasaki Heavy Industries mapping out clear development plans for hydrogen export.

"Part of the billions of dollars in investment that hydrogen can bring to North Queensland over the next 10 years will be increasing the electricity supply to Townsville by four, five or six times, and access to the enormous high-quality renewable resources unlocked by CopperString will be critical," Mr O'Brien said.

"The CopperString corridor between Townsville and Mount Isa has the best wind and solar resources in Queensland to fuel the development of a 'green' hydrogen industry, and unlike other regions North Queensland has an abundance of water, all the key ingredients for our State's continuing decarbonisation through hydrogen.

"There's also the Port of Townsville expansion and the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct in the works which will be Northern Australia's first environmentally sustainable advanced manufacturing, technology and processing hub so the opportunity for our region is enormous if we invest in backbone infrastructure such as CopperString," he said.

Mr O'Brien referred to a recent Geoscience Australia report that showed that CopperString cut through the heartland of massive highly reliable renewable resources.

"The area around Hughenden has a potential renewable energy capacity factor of 58% while other prospective areas proximal to our infrastructure include Kidston (capacity factor up to 52%) and around Mount Isa (capacity factor up to 56%), so North Queensland can compete with any region in the world on hydrogen" Mr O'Brien said.

"In simple terms, the wind around Hughenden blows primarily overnight and the sun shines in the west after we lose solar generation on the east coast and the ability to leverage off the CopperString development to bring these immense resources online very quickly is a huge advantage for Townsville."

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**Company Background**

CopperString 2.0 is a high-voltage transmission network that will connect the people and communities of Mount Isa and the North West Minerals Province to the National Electricity Grid near Townsville.

It will supply electricity to existing customers in north-west Queensland and deliver opportunities for new industrial facilities and large agricultural and renewable energy projects.

CopperString 2.0 is supported by a wide range of community, political and business stakeholders from Townsville to Mount Isa, all of whom will be an integral part of the approvals, development and construction process.

The project has an estimated total construction cost of \$1.7 billion. It will create around 750 new full time jobs during construction and approximately 30 operational and maintenance jobs ongoing. Significant indirect employment opportunities will occur as a result of the construction and commissioning of the project, with flow-on economic benefits for local communities between Townsville and Mount Isa.