

10 June 2021

For immediate release

CopperString mapped into Queensland's ambitions for renewable, hydrogen future.

Proponents of CopperString 2.0, the proposed 1,100km high-voltage transmission line connecting the North West to the national grid, have welcomed its prioritisation by the State Government to strengthen Queensland's plan to be a renewable and hydrogen superpower.

CuString Pty Ltd managing director Joseph O'Brien said Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk had supercharged her government's plan to deploy and develop renewable and hydrogen technologies with the announcement today of a \$2 billion Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund.

"The Premier made it clear that developing the half a trillion dollars of critical minerals in the North West was the key to that ambition. The Premier is expecting CopperString to power that ambition, and we can deliver," Mr O'Brien said.

"The CopperString corridor between Townsville and Mount Isa cuts through the heart of the best wind and solar resources in Queensland to fuel new renewable energy projects that will power the development of the minerals and electrify their processing in North Queensland.

"Greener, cleaner power harnessed by CopperString will also serve the creation of a world-leading hydrogen export hub in Townsville to lead the State's decarbonisation.

"We are proud to be part of these plans and deliver the jobs and economic development of the north for the benefit of all Queenslanders," he said.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk this afternoon restated her comments from earlier this year that the State Government was entering into an implementation agreement with CopperString.

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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.

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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.