

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

Submission on a vision for Hydrogen in New Zealand – Green Paper

To: Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment
Wellington
New Zealand

Submitter: Canterbury District Health Board

Attn: Matt Willoughby
Community and Public Health
C/- Canterbury District Health Board
PO Box 1475
Christchurch 8140

Proposal: MBIE is seeking feedback on the Green Paper - a vision for hydrogen in New Zealand

SUBMISSION ON A VISION FOR HYDROGEN IN NEW ZEALAND

Details of submitter

1. Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB).
2. The submitter is responsible for promoting the reduction of adverse environmental effects on the health of people and communities and to improve, promote and protect their health pursuant to the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 and the Health Act 1956. These statutory obligations are the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and, in the Canterbury District, are carried out under contract by Community and Public Health under Crown funding agreements on behalf of the Canterbury District Health Board.
3. The Ministry of Health requires the submitter to reduce potential health risks by such means as submissions to ensure the public health significance of potential adverse effects are adequately considered during policy development.

Details of submission

4. The CDHB welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Green Paper - a vision for hydrogen in New Zealand. The future health of our populations is not just reliant on hospitals, but on a responsive environment where all sectors work collaboratively.
5. While health care services are an important determinant of health, health is also influenced by a wide range of factors beyond the health sector. These influences can be described as the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and are impacted by environmental, social and behavioural factors. They are often referred to as the social determinants of health¹. The most effective way to maximise people's wellbeing is to take these factors into account as early as possible during decision making and strategy development.

¹ Public Health Advisory Committee. 2004. *The Health of People and Communities. A Way Forward: Public Policy and the Economic Determinants of Health*. Public Health Advisory Committee: Wellington.


Specific comments

6. The CDHB supports the vision to increase the use of hydrogen as a fuel source for energy production, heating and transport in order to reduce emissions and the subsequent negative impact on air quality and climate health, both of which pose significant risks for human health. Increasing use of hydrogen will also support competition between battery technology and hydrogen, incentivising both industries to produce more efficient and cleaner fuel cells.
7. The CDHB supports the focus on infrastructure, such as refuelling stations for transport.
8. The CDHB recommends additional consideration is given to the development of district heating schemes utilising hydrogen.

Conclusion

9. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Green Paper on a vision for hydrogen in New Zealand.

Person making the submission



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