

10 January 2023

Countrywide Hydrogen Expands With Two Key Appointments

Former Tasmanian Premier Peter Gutwein joins the Countrywide Board

Renewable hydrogen project developer Countrywide Hydrogen (“**Countrywide**”) is pleased to announce two key appointments to help advance the Company’s green hydrogen projects.

The Hon Peter Gutwein has been appointed to Countrywide’s Board, and Mr Owen Hobbs appointed as the Company’s General Manager of Hydrogen Developments.

As a Countrywide Director, Peter’s role will include assisting with commercial negotiations, advising on the processes for obtaining regulatory approvals and authorisations, and assessing the strategic, financial and commercial implications of the current and future green hydrogen projects.

Owen’s priority will be to take the Group’s green hydrogen projects in Tasmania to final investment decision, he will also provide support in progressing the Group’s Southeast Asia project.

Peter Gutwein had a 20-year parliamentary career in Tasmania during which he was a member of the State Cabinet for eight years as Treasurer, with the last two years as State Premier and Minister for Climate Change and Minister for Tourism. Prior to entering the Tasmanian Parliament Peter worked as a senior manager in the financial services sector.

Peter has significant and unique experience as one of the eight state and territory leaders who led their respective jurisdictions during the height of the health and economic crisis presented by COVID-19. During his tenure as Premier, Peter oversaw Tasmania advancing its position in respect of further development of renewable energy, as well as introducing legislation for a net zero emissions target by 2030.

Owen Hobbs is a highly experienced and respected senior energy industry executive with over 35 years in general, operational and technical management. Owen has led large onshore and offshore oil and gas operations in Australia and New Zealand and he has recent experience in the development of both green hydrogen and green ammonia projects.

Owen has earned a reputation for integrity, innovation, problem solving and delivering value.

During his time as both a senior leader in, and consultant to the energy industry, Owen has developed extensive experience in all aspects of running major energy businesses, including major project development and operational readiness.

In commenting on his appointment to the Countrywide Board, Peter Gutwein said:

“I am very pleased to take up the opportunity with the Countrywide board to help progress their green hydrogen projects both in the north and the south of the state.

Green hydrogen as a fuel for domestic supply will assist with the transition to lower emissions for the heavy transport sector and help lower Tasmania’s emissions profile making the State even more attractive for investment and the creation of jobs”

Geoffrey Drucker, Managing Director of Countrywide said:

“We are delighted by the expansion of our team here at Countrywide, and these two appointments will assist us to reach completion on our green hydrogen projects at Brighton and Launceston Airport.

The former Tasmanian Premier joining our team is testament to our Company’s vision and values. Peter understands that our projects in Tasmania with their focus on domestic supply are very credible and potentially deliverable. Our projects align with his vision to help Tasmania achieve net zero emissions, targets he introduced while Premier.

Owen brings considerable experience, leadership and relevant skills to our team, and we look forward to him progressing our projects in Tasmania to final investment decision, while also providing support across the board.

Our ability to attract such talent reflects the progress Countrywide made during 2022, in particular with our Tasmanian projects focused on domestic hydrogen supply.”

ReNu Energy CEO Greg Watson said:

“Off the back of our successful \$4.5 million capital raise in late 2022, the appointments of Peter and Owen bring considerable firepower to Countrywide and the ReNu Energy Group to deliver on our plans to be the first mover to reach financial investment decision on one or more of our domestic supply focused green hydrogen projects in Tasmania.”

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About Countrywide Hydrogen Pty Ltd

Countrywide Hydrogen, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ASX listed company ReNu Energy Limited (ASX:RNE), develops renewable hydrogen projects in Australia and abroad where offtake opportunities and abundant renewable energy sources prevail. The company has four projects under development in Australia and one in southeast Asia.

