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Hybrid grid to help cut Lake Wells emissions

Kalgoorlie Miner, Kalgoorlie

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Australian Potash has put environment and social governance front and centre of the development of its Lake Wells development, claiming it will be the greenest sulphate of potash project in Australia.

The company yesterday revealed it had appointed PWR Hybrid as its preferred provider to build, own and operate a hybrid renewable microgrid at the site 160km north-east of Laverton.

Australian Potash said the 35MW microgrid with a gas-fuelled power station with solar, wind and battery energy storage technology was expected to achieve a renewable energy fraction of more than 65 per cent.

The sulphate of potash hopeful said it had commissioned an assessment that found it would be producing 49 per cent fewer greenhouse gas emissions than equivalent brine SOP projects.

Australian Potash boss Matt Shackleton said Lake Wells would be "Australia's greenest SOP project".

Mr Shackleton said the microgrid would further leverage the already low greenhouse gas footprint of the evaporative SOP process.

"Our SOP distribution partners operate across global geographies and markets where sustainable industries are valued for their contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gases," he said.

"Many of these jurisdictions have, or are preparing to adopt, sustainable finance disclosure standards.

"With our vision on the operational future of the LSOP and the-

refore our end users, we consider it vital to address sustainable production of SOP as a critical path item."

PWR Hybrid director Ryan Green said the company was extremely pleased to be awarded preferred bidder status.

"Having recently delivered a 12MW gas-fired power station in WA and commenced work on the hybridisation of that project, the company is well-positioned to partner with Australian Potash to provide an industry-leading hybrid power station at the Lake Wells SOP potash project," he said.

Australian Potash has outlined a \$292 million project with SOP production tipped at 170,000 tonnes a year.