

Hydro power project planned for disused Kidston gold mine near Einasleigh in north Qld

NEWS 

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A private power company is planning to build Australia's third largest hydro power generator in an old north Queensland gold mine.

Genex Power has completed a pre-feasibility study for the project, which would be built in the closed Kidston mine near Einasleigh, north-west of Townsville.

The power generator, which is expected to cost \$282 million, would be privately funded.

Director Simon Kidston said it would be designed to help with Queensland's power supply problems in peak periods.

"The great thing about hydro projects is that you can generate it from a cold start within 15 seconds," he said.

"So if there is a spike in electricity demand because of hot weather or

some power outage, this project can go from a cold start to full generation within a very short period of time.

"So it's very complementary to the electricity network."

Mr Kidston said the gold mine was the perfect place for a hydro generator.

"The Kidston site has two very deep pits which were formally gold mines and they're in very close proximity to each other, they're connected to the electricity grid through the existing transmission line," he said.

"There's good road access, so in summary a lot of the elements we need to develop the project are pre-existing."