



**FUTURE  
ENERGY  
EXPORTS**  
Cooperative Research Centre



# **AOG ENERGY 2024**

## **A Technical, Economic and Environmental Assessment of Clean Marine Fuel Options for Australia**

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Nguyen Cao

Co-author:

Dr. Denis Andrianov and Prof. Michael Brear

# Outline



- 1. A brief overview of the shipping sector**
- 2. Conventional and alternative energy carriers**
- 3. Conventional and alternative propulsion systems**
- 4. Modelling of shipping performance**
- 5. Case study: Australia-China Iron Ore Corridor**
- 6. Conclusions**

# A brief overview of the shipping sector



## International

Trade volume = 12 billion tonnes p.a.<sup>[1]</sup>

Growth = 2.1% p.a.<sup>[1]</sup>

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions = 706 million tonnes p.a. (~2% of global energy related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions)<sup>[1]</sup>

<sup>1</sup> UNCTAD. (2023), <sup>2</sup> BITRE. (2023), <sup>3</sup>Shipping Australia. (2020), <sup>4</sup>ABS. (2023), <sup>5</sup>DCCEEW. (2023)

# A brief overview of the shipping sector



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## Australia

Trade volume = 1.7 billion tonnes p.a. (99% of Australia trade volume)<sup>[2,3]</sup> Growth = 1.4% p.a.<sup>[2]</sup>

Value = \$600 billion (85% of Australia trade value)<sup>[2,4]</sup> CO<sub>2</sub> emissions = 2 million tonnes p.a.<sup>[5]</sup>

– Estimated from miniscule bunker fuel sales

# Conventional and alternative fuels



## Conventional fuels considered:

- Heavy fuel oil (HFO)
- Very low sulphur fuel oil (VLSFO)
- Marine gas oil (MGO)

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- Liquefied natural gas (LNG)
- Compressed hydrogen (CH<sub>2</sub>)
- Liquefied hydrogen (LH<sub>2</sub>)
- Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)
- Methanol (CH<sub>3</sub>OH)

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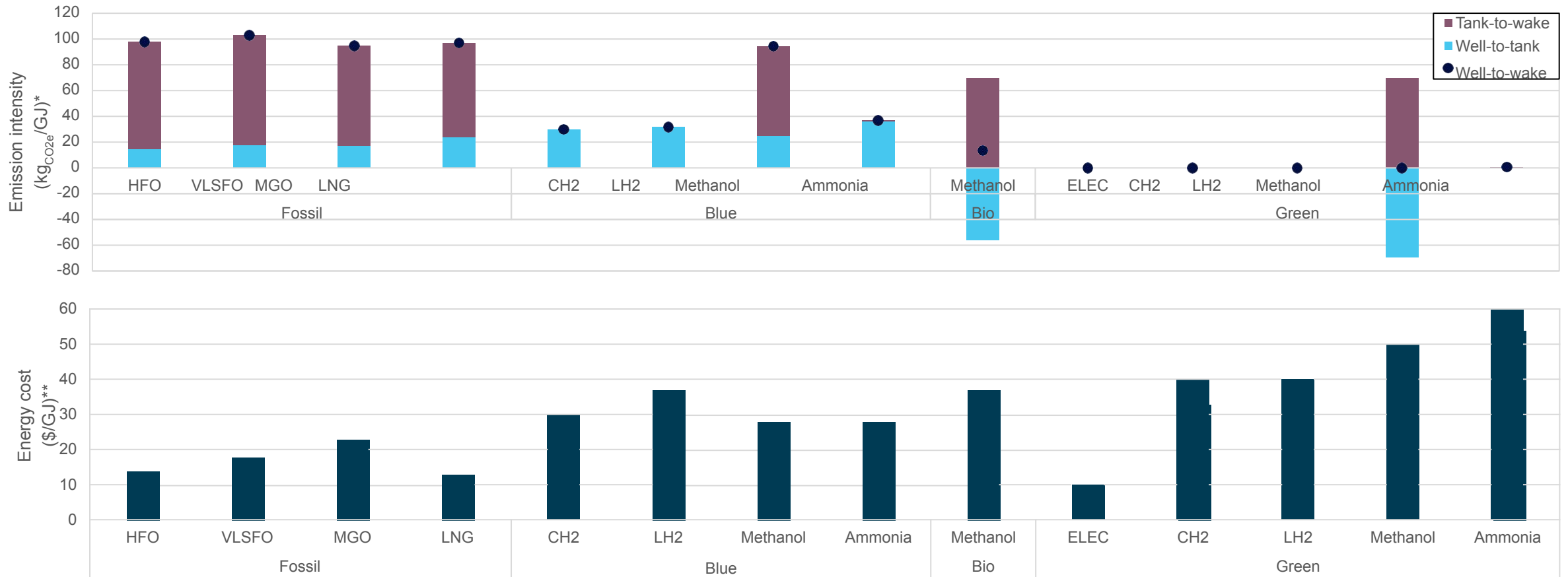
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- Methanol (CH<sub>3</sub>OH)

## Fuel production pathways considered:

- Fossil (F)
- Blue (BL)
- Bio (BIO)
- Green (E)

# Emission intensity and energy cost



\* Emission intensity data from: <sup>1</sup>Comer and Osipova (2021), <sup>2</sup>IEA. (2019), <sup>3</sup>IRENA & Methanol Institute. (2021), <sup>4</sup>European Union. (2018), <sup>5</sup>IEA. (2023), <sup>6</sup>Zaimes, G. G. (2021).

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\*\* The currency used is USD.

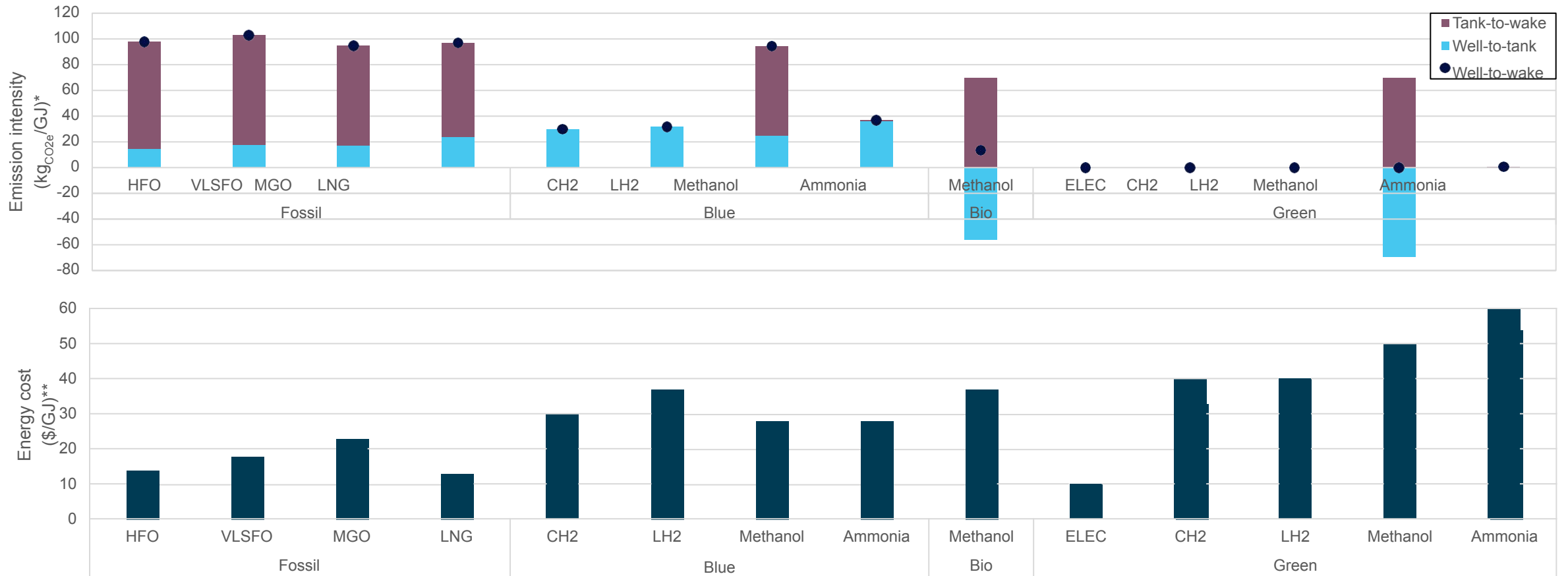


# Emission intensity and energy cost



Most to least polluting production pathways: fossil, blue, bio and green.

The reverse is true for the corresponding pathway costs.



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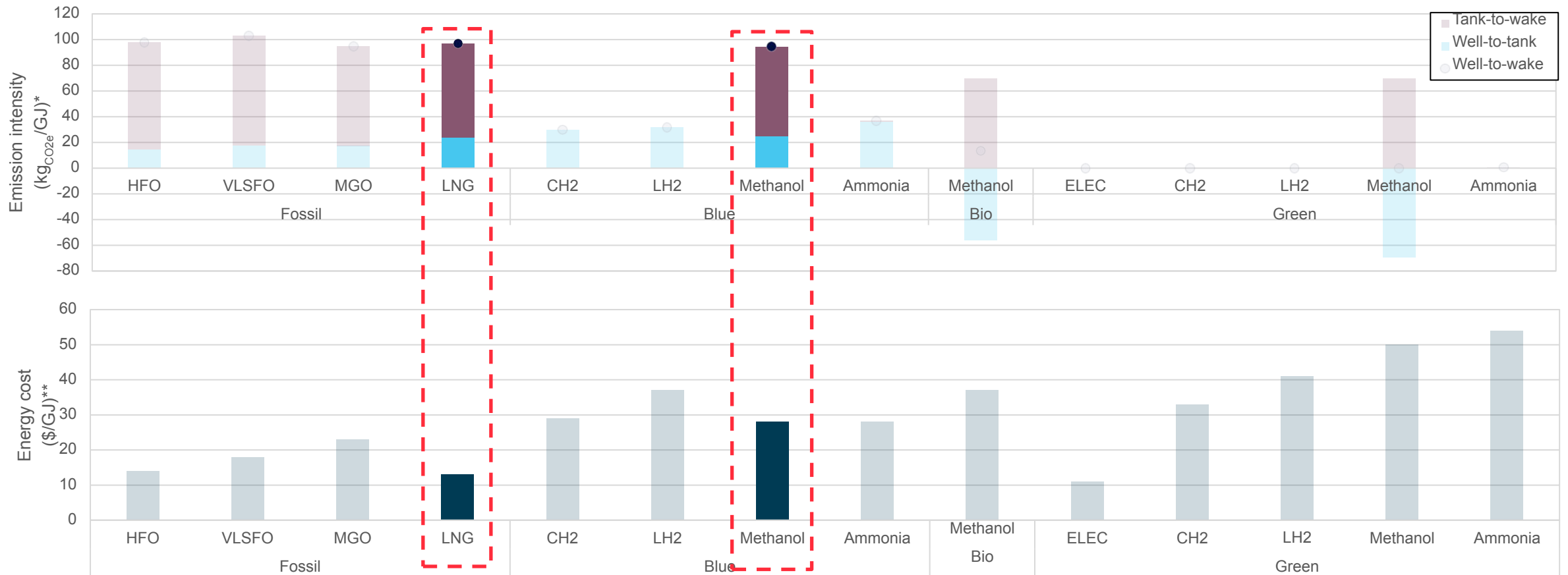
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# Emission intensity and energy cost



LNG and blue methanol have limited potentials to reduce GHG emissions compared to HFO.  
 Additionally, blue methanol is priced higher than any of the fuel oils.



\* Emission intensity data from: <sup>1</sup>Comer and Osipova (2021), <sup>2</sup>IEA. (2019), <sup>3</sup>IRENA & Methanol Institute. (2021), <sup>4</sup>European Union. (2018), <sup>5</sup>IEA. (2023), <sup>6</sup>Zaimes, G. G. (2021).

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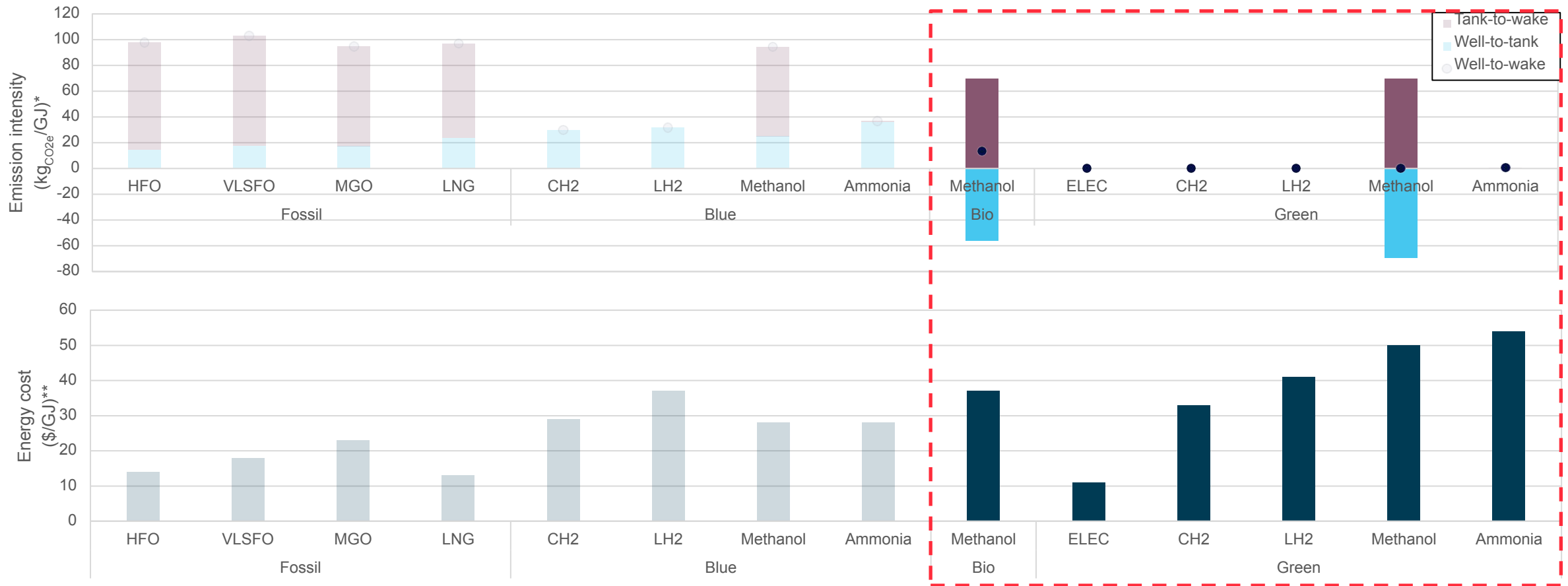
\*\* The currency used is USD.

# Emission intensity and energy cost



Low and zero GHG emissions options have the potential to achieve 80-100% reduction in GHG emissions compared to HFO.

However, these options are accompanied by a cost increase of up to three times.

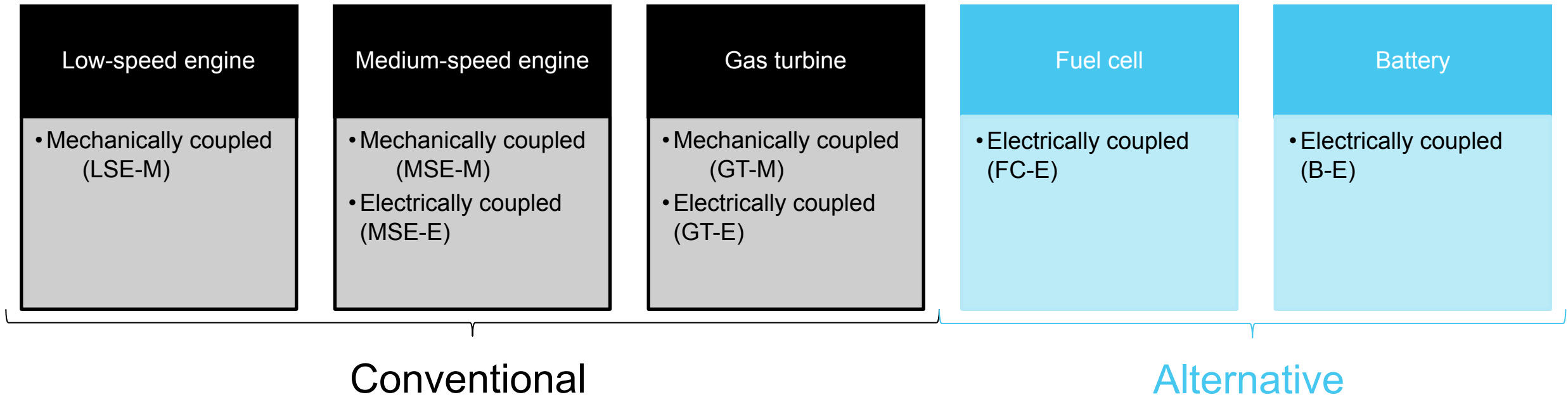


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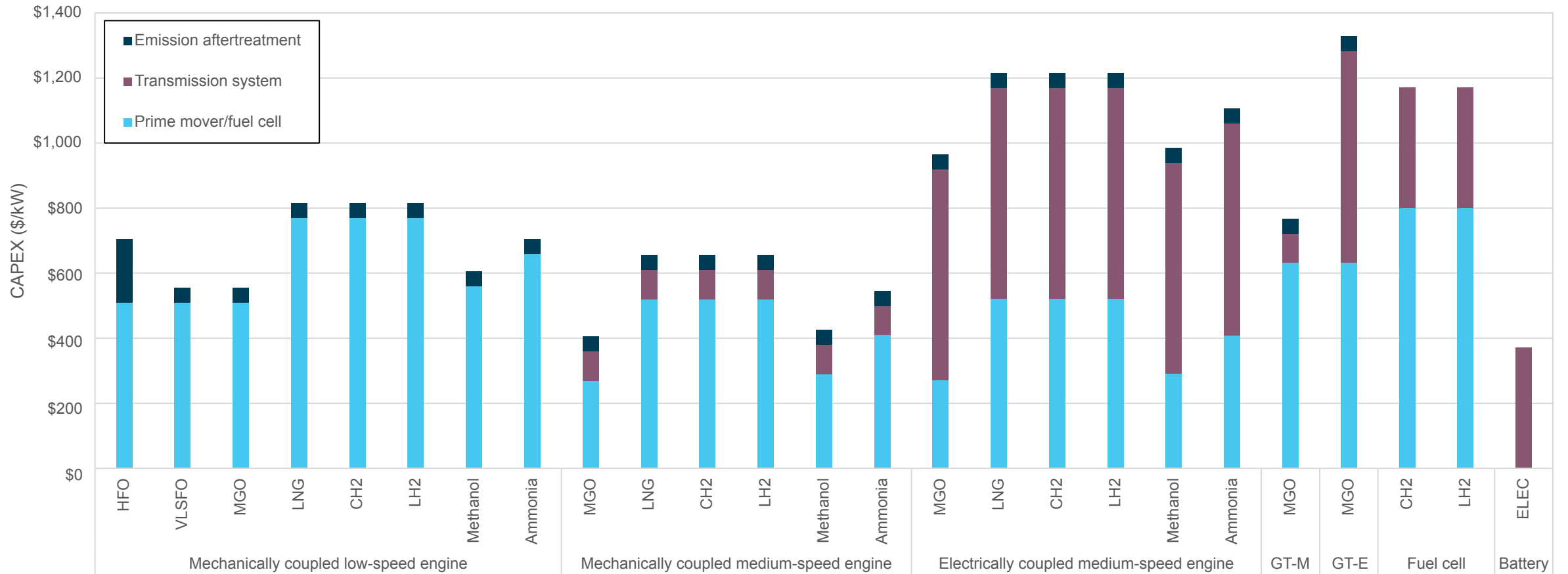
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# Conventional and alternative propulsion systems



# Capital cost



\* The capital costs presented above exclude the energy storage components.

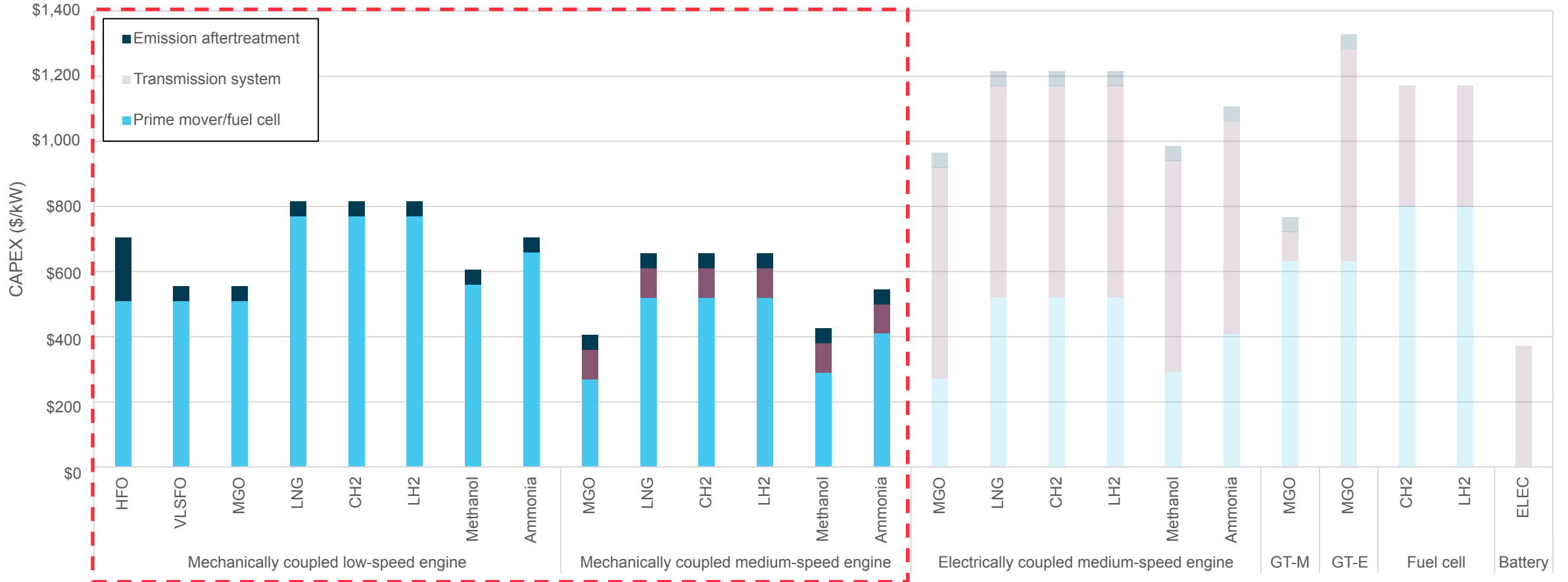
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<sup>1</sup>Korberg, A. D. et. al. (2021), <sup>2</sup>Aurecon. (2022), <sup>3</sup>Kanchiralla, F. M. et. al. (2022), <sup>4</sup>Trivyza, N. L. et. al. (2022)

# Capital cost



Medium-speed engines appear to require the lowest level of capital expenditure, followed by low-speed engines.



\* The capital costs presented above exclude the energy storage components.

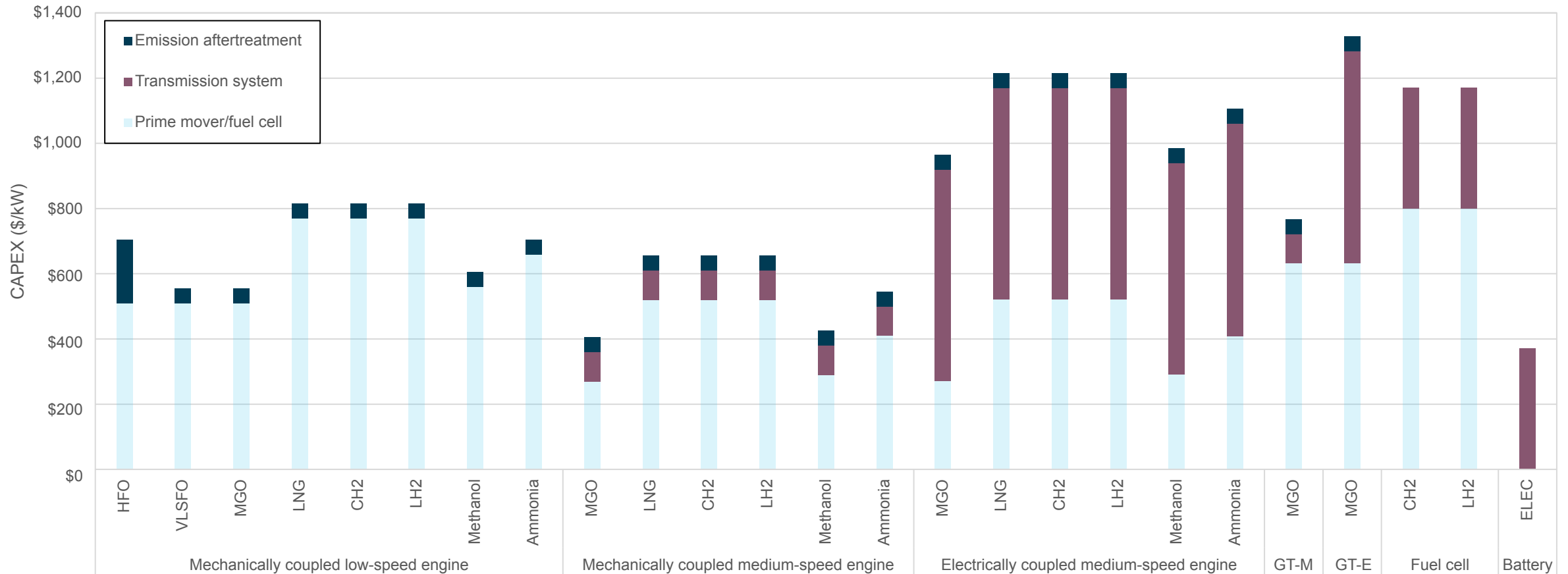
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# Capital cost



Transmission and emission aftertreatment systems contribute significantly to the overall CAPEX.

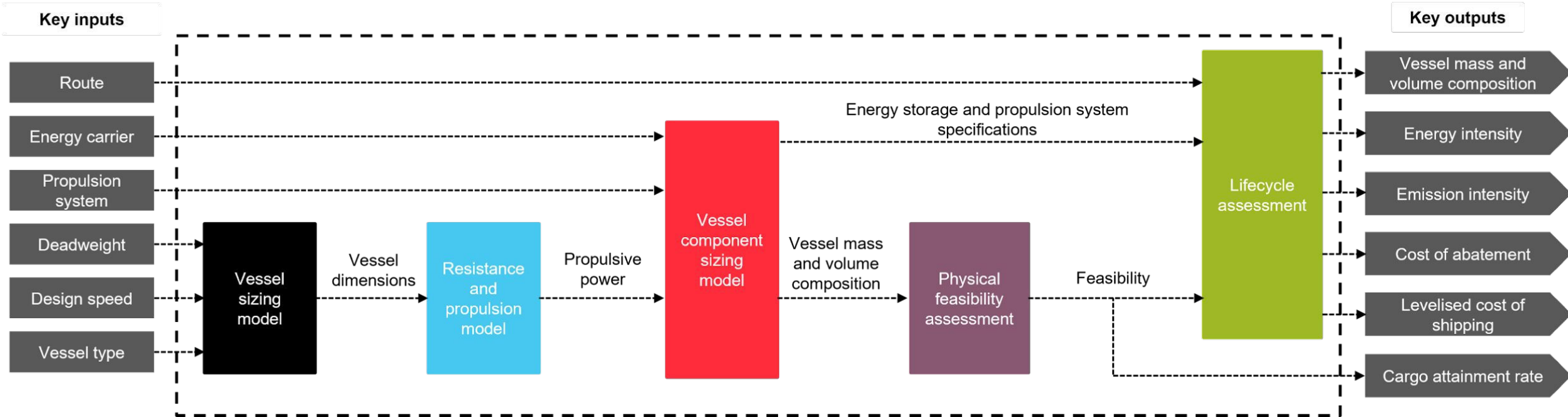


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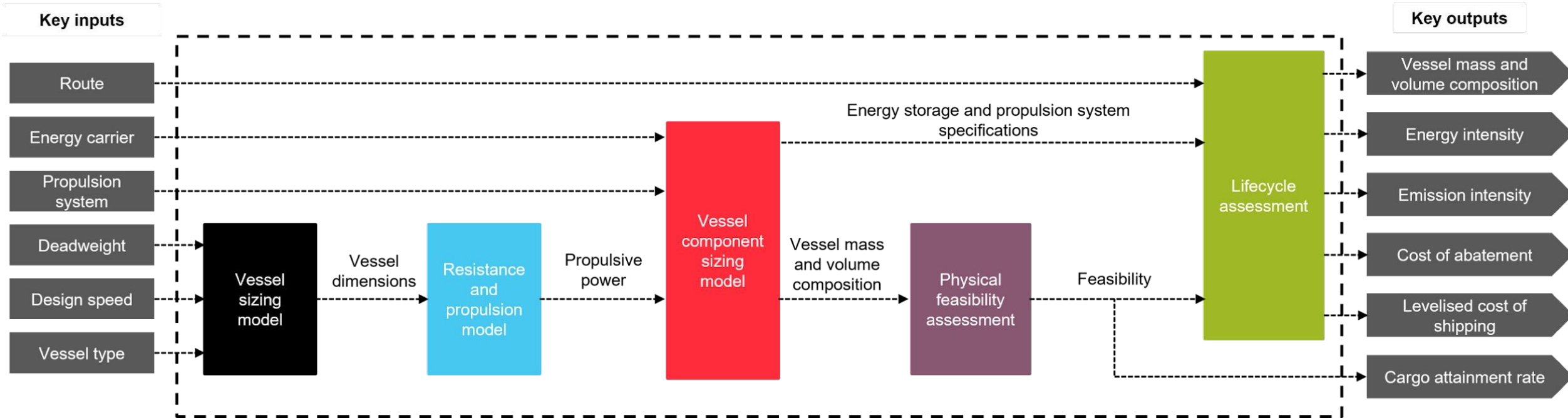
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# Modelling of shipping performance





# Modelling of shipping performance



The model accounts for **route** and **ship specifications** to determine **sizes** and **propulsive power** and subsequently **feasibility** as well as **energy**, **emission** and **cost** factors for each **fuel** and **propulsion system** option.

# Shipping performance metric



- The levelised cost of shipping (LCOS):

$$LCOS \left( \frac{\$ \text{ capital costs}}{\text{tonne} \cdot \text{km}} \right) = \frac{(\text{fuel costs}) + (\text{other operating costs})}{(\text{mass of goods carried}) \cdot (\text{distance travelled})}$$

Transport work

- Emission intensity (EI):

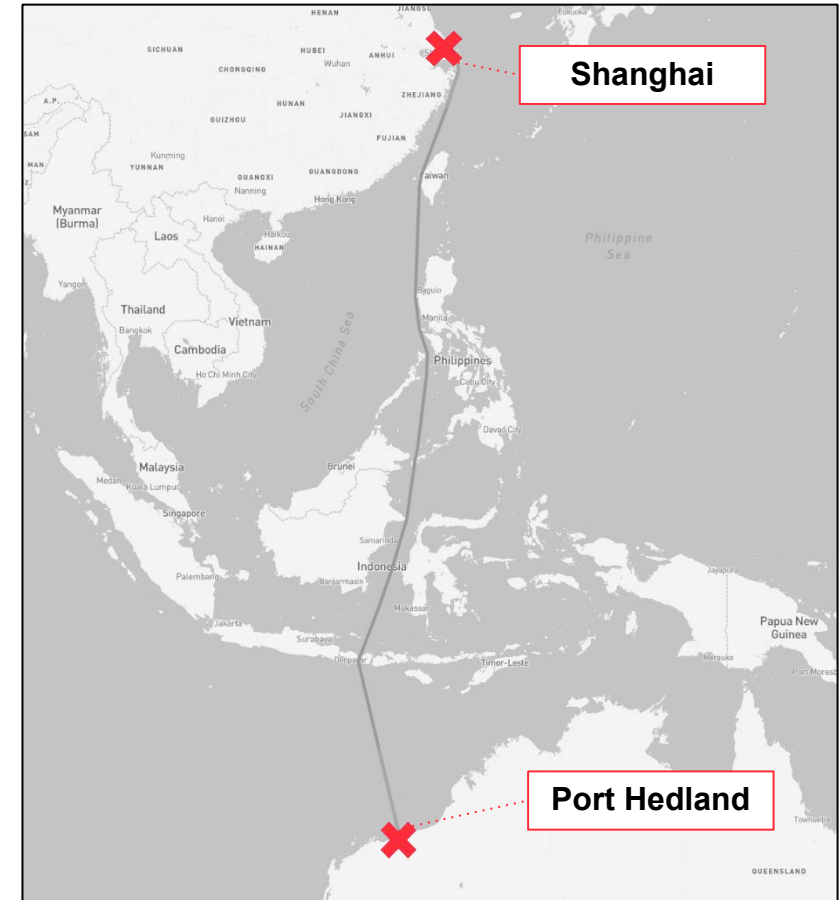
$$EI \left( \frac{\text{kg}_{CO_2e}}{\text{tonne} \cdot \text{km}} \right) = \frac{\text{total mass of GHG emissions}}{(\text{mass of goods carried}) \cdot (\text{distance travelled})}$$

Transport work

# Case study: Australia – China iron ore corridor



- Mass of iron ore traded = 722 million tonnes p.a.<sup>[1]</sup>
- Route distance = 6,000 km
- Vessel = 250,000 tonnes bulk carrier
- Total annual energy consumption = 213 PJ p.a.\*
- Total annual GHG emissions = 21 million tonnes<sub>CO2e</sub> p.a.\*

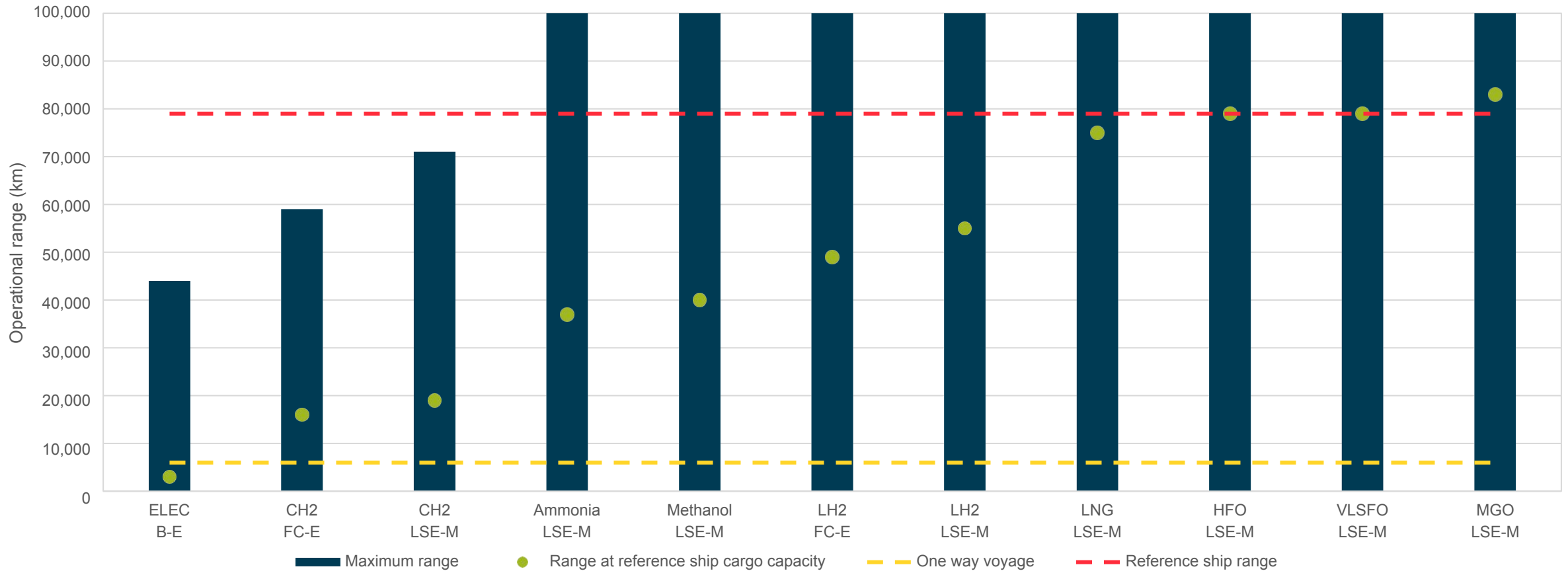


\*Modelled results using methodology described. All iron ore exported to China is assumed to follow the illustrated route, transported by 250,000 tonne deadweight bulk carriers at 14 knots, powered by HFO-fueled LSE-M.

<sup>[1]</sup>BITRE. (2023), <sup>2</sup>DCCEEW. (2022), <sup>3</sup>DCCEEW. (2023)

# Maximum operational range

Every ship, except those powered by battery, can make 1 return trip without comprising the cargo capacity!



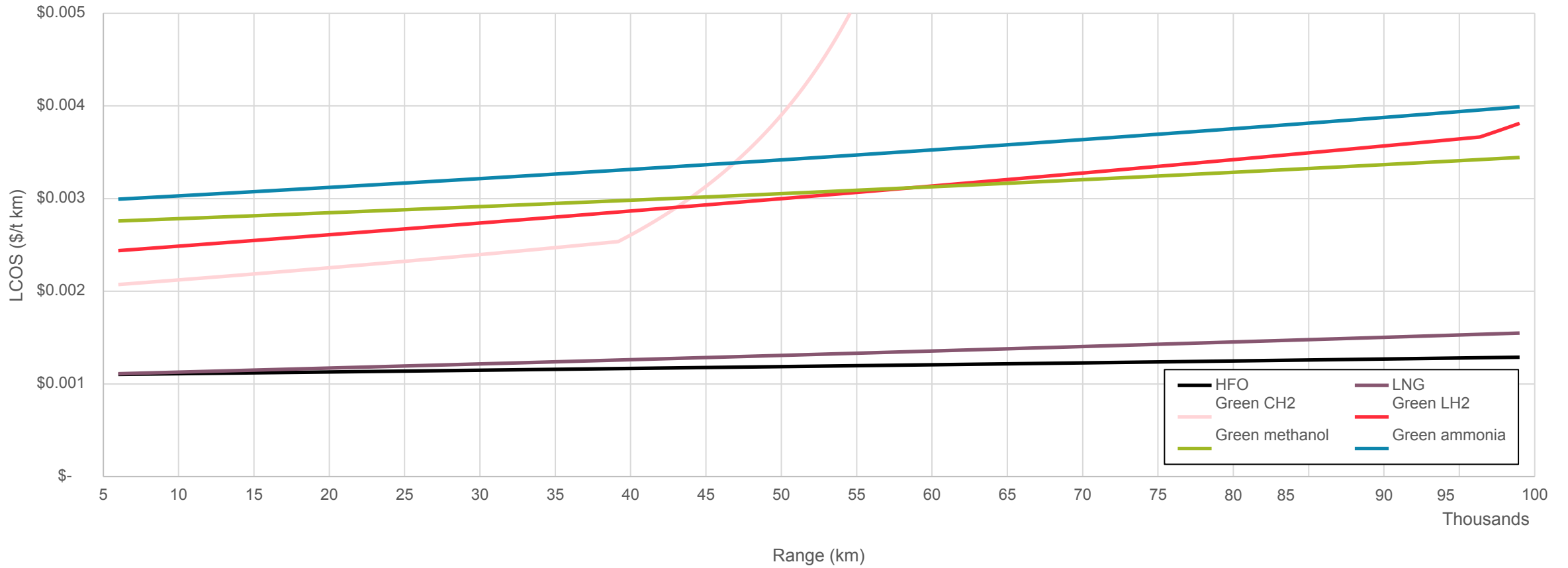
\*Modelled results using the methodology described.

\*\*Operational ranges exceeding 100,000 km were omitted as they are less relevant and increasingly compromise cargo capacity.

# LCOS as a function of range

Results shown are for options employing low-speed engines.

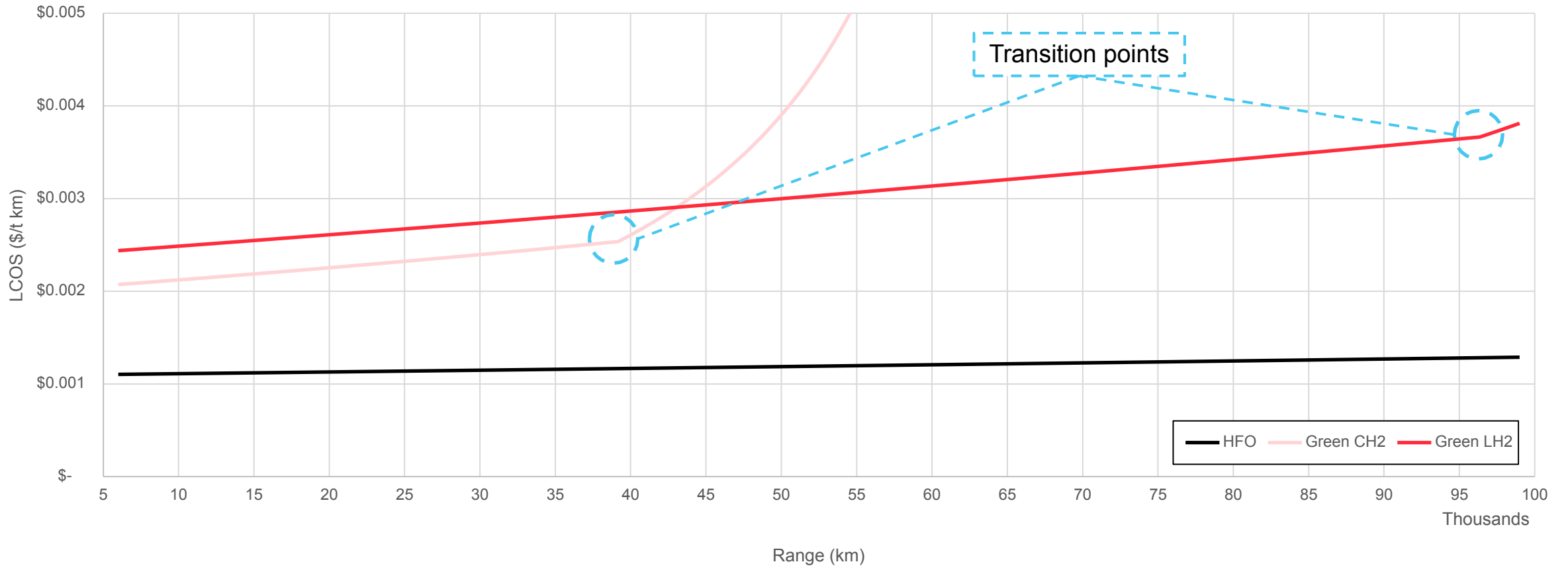
Other propulsion systems demonstrate similar trends but higher LCOS relative to the low-speed engine cases due to their lower efficiencies. The battery-powered option is at least 1 order of magnitude more expensive than the HFO-fuelled options.



\*Modelled results using the methodology described.

# LCOS as a function of range

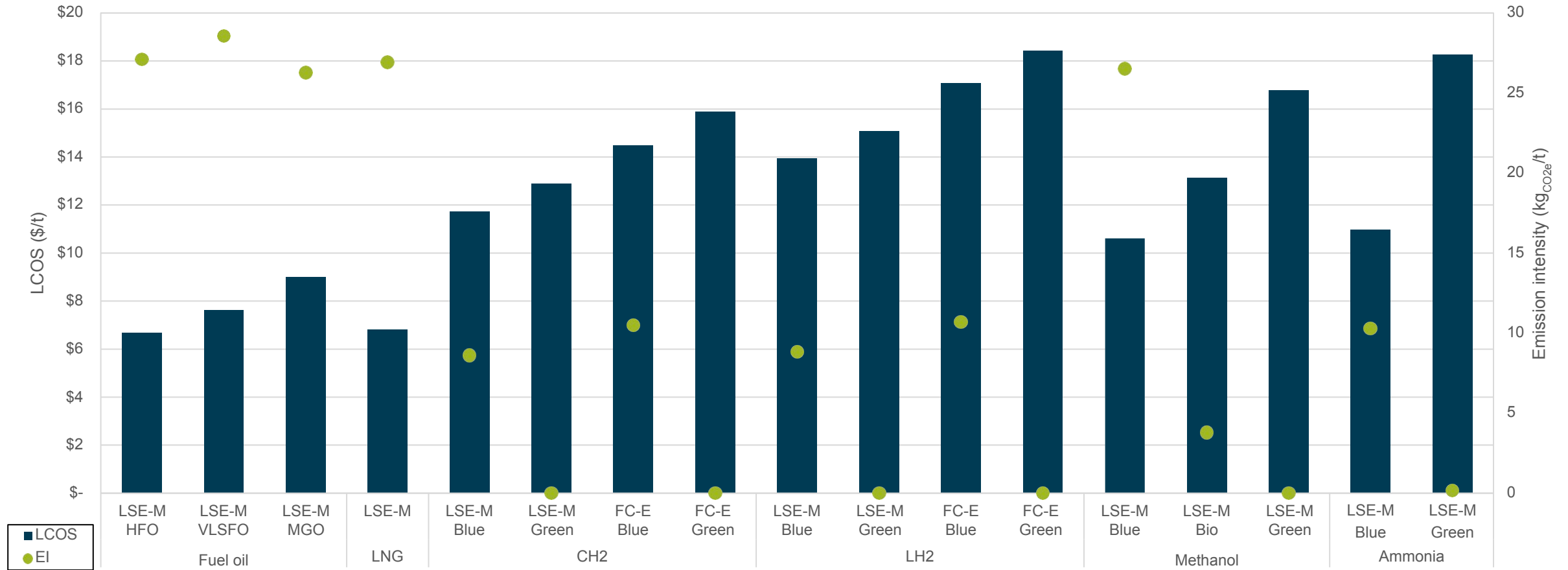
Beyond a certain range, the use of compressed and liquefied hydrogen rapidly becomes uneconomic as the vessel transitions from being weight-limited to volume-limited.



\*Modelled results using the methodology described.

# LCOS and emission intensity for 12,000 km range

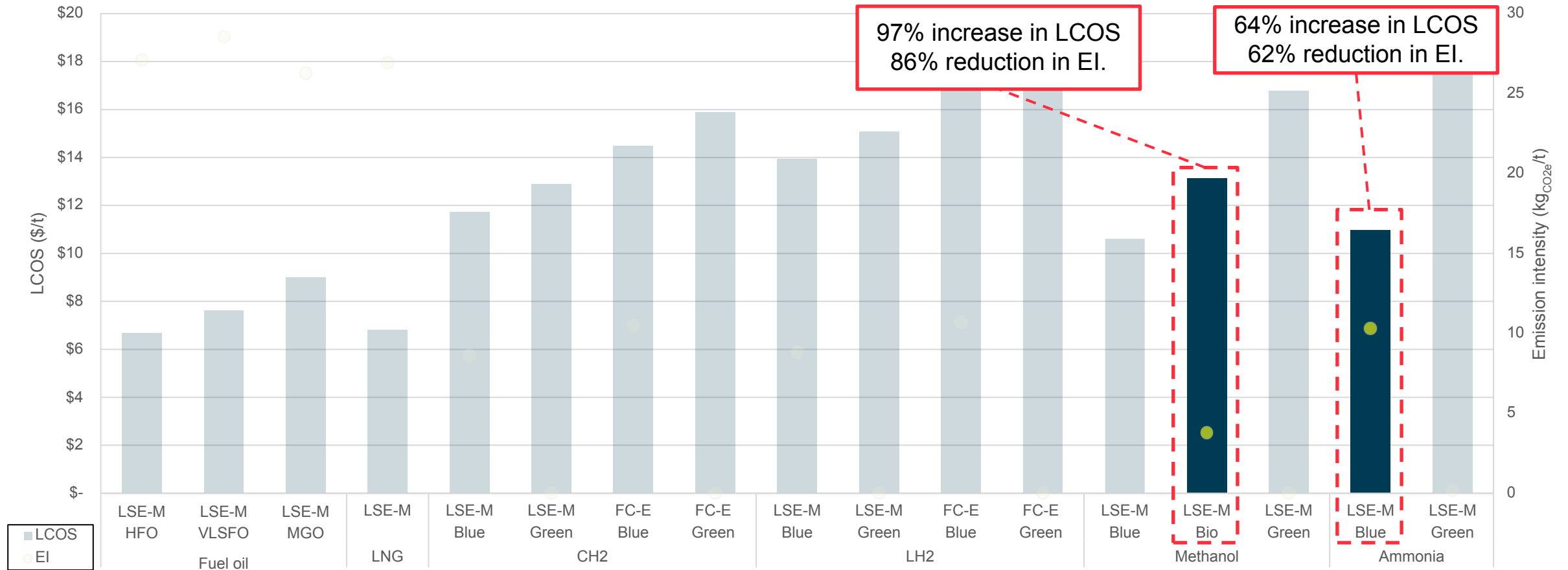
Low and zero emissions options may increase the delivered costs of Australian iron ore to China by \$5-12/tonne, or 10-20% of the iron price of \$100/tonne.



\*Modelled results using the methodology described.

# LCOS and emission intensity for 12,000 km range

Bio methanol or blue ammonia fuelled low-speed engines are the most cost-effective low GHG emissions options.



\*Modelled results using the methodology described.

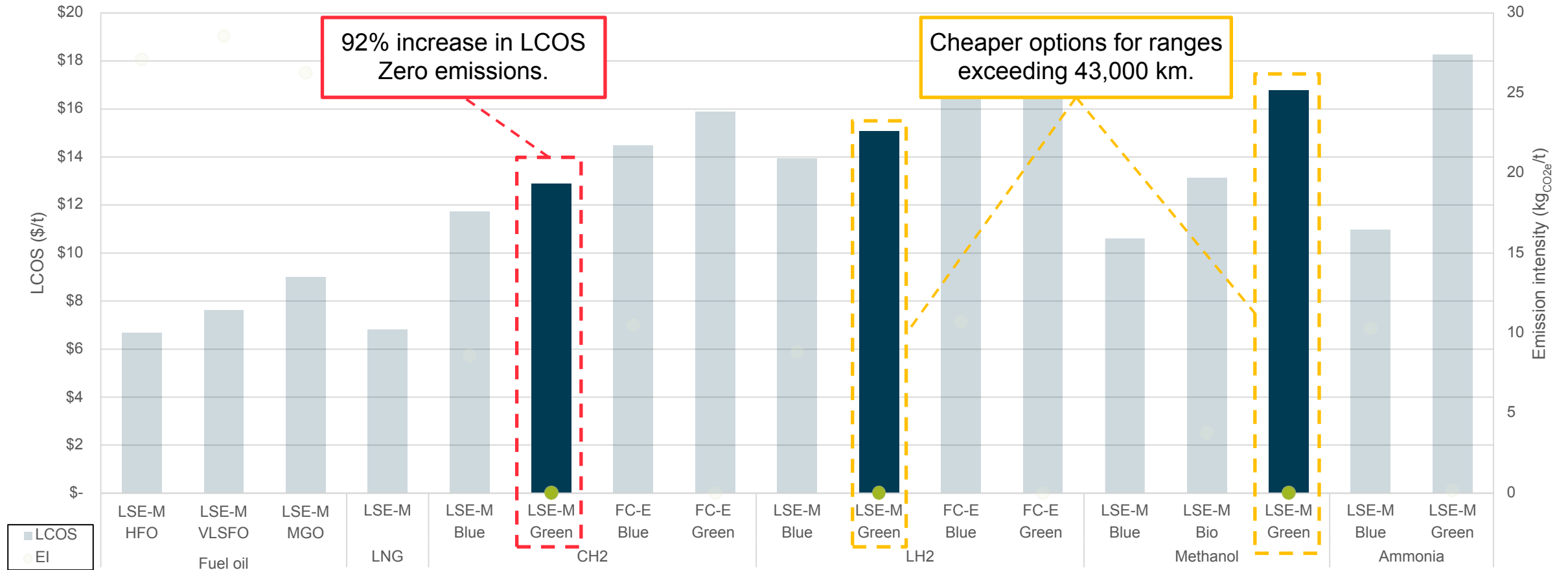


# LCOS and emission intensity for 12,000 km range



Green compressed hydrogen fuelled low-speed engine is the cheapest zero emission option.

However, for operational ranges exceeding 43,000 km the green liquefied hydrogen or methanol fuelled low-speed engine options are expected to have better economic performance.



92% increase in LCOS  
Zero emissions.

Cheaper options for ranges  
exceeding 43,000 km.

\*Modelled results using the methodology described.

# Conclusions



- Except for the battery option, all combinations of fuel and propulsion system considered appear to be plausible for shipping Australian iron ore to China on bulk carriers with representative deadweight. This even includes a single, return trip fuelled with gaseous hydrogen.
- Whilst low-emission fuels may at least double shipping costs, this is anticipated to increase the delivered costs of Australian iron ore to Asian trading partners by about 10-20% if the fuel tank is sized for 1 return trip. This is potentially a justifiable “green premium”, and there may be options to reduce these costs.
- Noting the many uncertainties in this work, blue ammonia and bio methanol appear to be the lowest cost low- emission shipping options, whilst green compressed or liquefied hydrogen and green methanol appear to be the lowest cost zero-emission shipping options.
- Ongoing work is examining how to reduce the LCOS further for different clean shipping types.

# Acknowledgement



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# Q&A



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Contact details:

Nguyen Cao

[caonc@student.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:caonc@student.unimelb.edu.au)

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