

ITEM 9

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR MITHRA COX - WOLLONGONG NUCLEAR FREE ZONE

Councillor Mithra Cox has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that Council –

- 1 Reaffirms its declaration that Wollongong is a “Nuclear Free Zone”.
- 2 Notes that Wollongong City Council first made this declaration in 1980, and reaffirmed this commitment in 2006, and that this position statement was due for renewal on 30 March 2022.
- 3 Notes that in 2019, Council signed on to the ICAN Cities appeal to support the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.”

Background provided by Councillor Mithra Cox:

Council’s existing position statement can be found [here](#). The declaration of a nuclear free zone is a symbolic statement banning nuclear weapons and nuclear power. It does not prohibit radiopharmaceuticals used in nuclear medicine. Over 100 local government areas have declared themselves nuclear free zones. Wollongong has a longstanding commitment as a nuclear free zone, having first made that declaration in 1980 and renewing the commitment several times.

Nuclear power and nuclear weapons pose a serious threat to human and environmental health and safety. An uncontrolled nuclear reaction can cause widespread contamination of air and water, something which has occurred most notably in Fukushima in Japan and Chernobyl in the Ukraine. To date, 1.5% of all nuclear power plants ever built have melted down to some degree. Nuclear power also creates radioactive waste that remains dangerous to human health for thousands of years.

Nuclear weapons cause catastrophic harm and are a threat to the safety and security of all life on earth. They are the most destructive, inhumane and indiscriminate weapons ever created. A world without nuclear weapons is a world that is safer and more secure.