

ITEM 11 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR JESS WHITTAKER - ROYALTIES FOR REJUVENATION FUND

Councillor Jess Whittaker has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that the General Manager provides an update to Councillors on the status of the Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund via a Workshop.”

Background provided by Councillor Jess Whittaker:

The NSW Government sets aside at least \$25 million each year in royalties to support coal mining communities across NSW. Wollongong City Council previously was the recipient of the Royalties for Regions Fund, which was untied funding available exclusively to mine affected and impacted communities. The newly established Royalties for Rejuvenation fund was subsequently quarantined in the 2023-24 budget. The withdrawal of the Resources for Regions Fund in 2023 and quarantining of the Royalties for Rejuvenation fund in 2023-24, has led to coal mining regions like the Illawarra being starved of funding that would help pay for road upgrades and community services that support nearby mines.

The Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund Website also states that “The NSW Government will set aside at least \$25 million each year from mining royalties to support coal mining communities in NSW through the Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund. The funding will ensure that coal mining communities can make targeted investments towards strategic planning, workforce development programs, constructing enabling infrastructure, and establishing new industries and employment opportunities.” There is no current public information about how these quarantined funds will be spent, and if coal mining community councils will be granted access to these funds in the future. If the General Manager has further information regarding how and when the funds will be distributed to coal mining communities, could he please provide this to councillors.