

ITEM 22

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR MITHRA COX - ILLAWARRA RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE

Councillor Mithra Cox has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that the General Manager write to Energy Minister Matt Kean to –

- 1 Thank him for his leadership in legislating a plan to transform the NSW electricity grid to renewable energy, for naming the Illawarra as a Renewable Energy Zone in the Renewable Energy Infrastructure Bill, and for including \$50m for the development of a green hydrogen industry.
- 2 Request a briefing on the Illawarra Renewable Energy Zone and how it may impact on Council’s Economic Development Plan, our ambition to achieve net zero emissions in Wollongong by 2050 and on our future land use planning.”

Background provided by Councillor Cox:

The NSW Parliament adopted the Renewable Energy Infrastructure Bill in November 2020. This legislated a plan to transform the NSW electricity grid, retire aging coal fired power stations and replace them with renewable energy and storage. The plan will see NSW achieve 75% renewable energy in the grid by 2030 and 100% by 2050.

The Bill named the Illawarra as a Renewable Energy Zone, which will see significant investment in the renewable technologies in this zone, with an emphasis on developing the Port Kembla Hydrogen Hub, but potentially also including renewable energy production and storage. The Bill also includes \$50m in funding to help grow the green hydrogen industry.

These changes at the NSW Government level will assist Wollongong in achieving our aspirational targets to achieve net zero emissions for our entire community by 2050.

However, it is important that we work closely and collaboratively with the state government to ensure that we have sufficient industrial land in appropriate places to support the renewable energy zone, and that our long-term strategic planning supports the growth of these industries.