

**SUBJECT: LMM 28/08/18 - CLEAN ENERGY FUNDING TO REDUCE
POWER BILLS**

MOTION

That Newcastle City Council:

- 1 Notes that on 20 August 2018, the NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced \$85 million, including \$72 million from the NSW Climate Change Fund, for clean energy projects aimed at helping businesses and households reduce their energy costs;
- 2 Welcomes the announcement that includes \$12.5 million for local councils for LED Lighting upgrades;
- 3 Notes that 50 per cent of our electricity consumption comes from streetlighting, at a cost of approximately \$1.5 million to the city annually;
- 4 Notes that we have achieved a 20 per cent reduction in electricity usage through a number of measures including LED lighting upgrades, with the aim of reducing our total electricity usage by 30 per cent by 2020;
- 5 Reiterates our goal of ensuring that 80 per cent of our street lights are LED by 2020;
- 6 Applies for funding from the NSW Government's clean energy program, to continue reducing the City of Newcastle's energy consumption through further LED lighting upgrades.

BACKGROUND

NEWS

Monday, 20 August 2018

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian announces Climate Change Fund money to reduce energy costs

The NSW Government is taking \$72 million from its Climate Change Fund to help some businesses and households reduce their energy costs.

Premier Gladys Berejiklian today announced that \$35 million dollars would be given to about 250 manufacturing businesses to install energy efficient equipment and meters to track their energy use.

An additional \$24.5 million will be directed at low-income renters, so they can obtain energy efficient lighting, heating and hot water systems.

The Government said that it would help low-income renters save up to \$400 a year on their energy bills.

The rest of the money will go to local councils to install LED bulbs in streetlights.

Ms Berejiklian said it was an appropriate use of the Climate Change Fund.

"I had been concerned previously as to what the money was used for and now what I'm keen to ensure as Premier ... [is] that whilst we're doing everything we can to reduce emissions and be good to the environment, we also want to be good to everybody's hip pocket," she said at a media conference this morning.

However, National Conservation Council of NSW CEO Kate Smolski said the Berejiklian Government's vision was not bold enough to reach its target of zero net emissions by 2050.

"NSW is on fire and the Government announces it is buying water pistols," Ms Smolski said.

While the plan is welcome to an extent, Ms Smolski said "energy efficiency has to be part of the mix, but realistically it is not the solution".

"Where is the Premier's plan to slash emissions from our main sources of pollution in NSW — coal-fired power stations?" she said.

The Premier's announcement today coincides with the Turnbull Government dumping its plans to legislate emissions reduction target.

The federal Coalition announced reducing emissions by 26 per cent on 2005 levels did not have enough support to pass Parliament.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.