

**Item No:** Item 6

**Subject:** CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP

**File Ref:**

**Prepared By:** Emily Williams—Sustainability Engagement Officer

**Authorised By:** Jon Stiebel—Manager Urban Sustainability

## **SUMMARY**

At the 24 October Ordinary Meeting, Council unanimously voted for Item 25 Notice of Motion (Attachment 1): Making the Inner West a leader in renewable energy. The Notice of Motion includes a commitment to sign up to the Climate Council Cities Power Partnership.

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Environment Strategic Reference Group notes:**

- 1. Inner West Council has committed to sign up to the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership**
  - 2. Council staff will develop a process consistent with Council's Community Engagement Framework to engage the Environment Strategic Reference Group, Councillors, NGOs and the broader community in the development of a plan to address the targets and actions within C1017 Item 25 Notice of Motion: Making the Inner West a leader in renewable energy**
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## **BACKGROUND**

At the 24 October Ordinary Meeting, Council unanimously voted for Item 25 Notice of Motion: Making the Inner West a leader in renewable energy (see attachments). The Notice of Motion includes "Take immediate steps to sign up the Inner West Council to the Cities Power Partnership at the earliest opportunity".

The Cities Power Partnership is a free, national local government program led by the Climate Council, which launched on 19 July 2017. The program focuses on supporting and celebrating the emissions reduction successes of local councils across Australia.

The Climate Council has been notified that Inner West Council would like to sign up to the Cities Power Partnership. The Mayor is sending a letter to the CEO of the Climate Council, agreeing to meet certain targets as part of the participation agreement.

As a power partner, Council must—within six months—identify five items from within the Cities Power Partnership Pledge that Council will strive to achieve, and complete a 6-monthly online survey that provides the Climate Council with basic information on how Inner West Council is progressing on the five selected pledge items. Inner West Council will also be paired with two other local councils to collaborate and share knowledge.

Council staff will develop a process consistent with Council's Community Engagement Framework to engage the Environment Strategic Reference Group, Councillors, NGOs and the broader community in the development of a plan addressing the targets and actions within the attached Notice of Motion.

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**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. C1017 Item 25 Notice of Motion: Making the Inner West a leader in renewable energy

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**ATTACHMENT 1****C1017 Item 25 Notice of Motion: Making the Inner West a leader in renewable energy****Motion:** (York/Kiat)

That Council:

1. Take immediate steps to sign up the Inner West Council to the Cities Power Partnership at the earliest opportunity (noting the next in-take will be in October 2017) – with a focus on pledging actions focused on solar and renewables leadership.
2. Receive a report/s through the General Manager on how the Inner Council will:
  - a. Commit to Priorities and Key Actions as required under the Partnership (noting the preferred focus on action focused on solar and renewables leadership)
  - b. Make the Inner West Council 100% carbon neutral by the earliest possible date, while balancing immediate actions with the need for more impactful, longer term solutions
  - c. Achieve 100% divestment from fossil fuel aligned investments at the earliest possible date, based on a financially responsible pathway
  - d. Make the Inner West Council a leader in Solar photovoltaic (PV) energy by:
    - i. Ensuring all new Council-owned developments are fitted with Solar PV cells.
    - ii. Working towards the retrofitting of all Council-owned buildings with appropriately sized Solar PV cells – potentially through a bulk tendering process – where possible.
  - e. Establish an Office of Renewable Energy Innovation (REI) to make the Inner West community a leader in renewable energy innovation by:
    - i. Setting targets and timeframes for the take up of renewable energy and energy conservation solutions, including benchmarks for new developments.
    - ii. Leading the investigation into our best options for adopting solar and renewable energy in our area.
    - iii. Helping drive community renewables ownership by supporting community energy organisations in the Inner West.
    - iv. Providing support to help residents and commercial property managers install/manage solar technology – including investigating models where upfront solar PV panels and installation costs are covered or reduced for participants, as in Darebin Council’s Solar Savers program – with a goal for the installation of cost-saving Solar PV cells on all eligible roofs.
    - v. Providing a brokerage service to help organisations looking to invest in community energy projects to identify potential partners with suitable roof space.
    - vi. Investigating the viability of transitioning the Inner West Council vehicle fleet to an electric fleet.

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- vii. Prioritising a solar innovation pilot run by REI, which may include a Council/Commercial Solar Power Purchase Agreement, investment in a regional solar farm partnership, and/or a local solar farm pilot.
3. That this report/s form the basis of an integrated climate and renewables strategy for the Inner West Council, under which actions under the Partnership and the focus of the new Office of Renewable Energy Innovation are aligned:
- a. Noting that Priorities and Agreed Actions under the Partnership are required to be agreed within 6 months of signing onto the partnership, and should both leverage and reflect a broader IWC climate and renewables strategy.
  - b. That before the agreement of these priorities and actions under the Partnership, Councillors should receive a briefing prior to the end of 2017 from Council staff on current climate and renewable actions underway across Council, and options and financial implications for an integrated climate & renewables strategy touching on the elements listed above.
  - c. That Council's Environment Strategic Reference Group also be consulted in the drafting of this report/s and recommendations.
4. That Council develop a 3 year Community Engagement strategy to promote greater community awareness of renewal energy options and benefits of renewable energy in their community

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

**Against Motion:** Nil