



NOTICE OF MOTION

2 February 2010

NOM6	SOLAR PANELS ON COUNCIL BUILDINGS
FILE: 707 PJH	{Folio No. *}

I hereby give notice that I intend to move the following motion at the Ordinary meeting of Kempsey Shire Council to be held on Tuesday, 2 February 2009.

“That Council request the General Manager to revisit the costs of installing solar panels, for the manufacture of electricity, on the roofs of Council buildings. This is to reduce our escalating costs of purchasing electricity. Additional benefits from the development of ‘green’ power would not only reduce Council’s carbon footprint but also that of our electricity provider, the NSW Government and Australian Government. It could also be an income stream avenue.

Such revisit to take in all aspects of ‘green’ energy production including cost per unit production and income received from same, grant availability, carbon credit availability to offset some of Council’s carbon producing activity (landfill), and the impact on Council’s triple bottom line.

That a report be provided to Council no later than the May 2010 Council meeting.”

NOTE:

Several years ago I requested that this matter be investigated and at that time it was felt that the cost of installation was high (being \$80,000 for the roof on Customer First) and the payback period was too long.

Things have now changed. The cost of solar panels has reduced considerably, while the cost of electricity continues to rise exponentially. Further, there are now government grants available and the recent decision by the NSW Government to pay a gross feed in tariff for renewable energy production of 60 cents per unit of energy for all electricity generated up to 10 kilowatts (not just that excess to our usage) while the cost of electricity purchased for use is considerably lower.

Several other councils both in NSW and Victoria have already gone down this path with good results.

This would also include an audit of Council’s energy (which was promised several years ago and to my knowledge has not occurred to date).

MOTION IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

There would be significant environmental implications with Council's carbon footprint being reduced by the amount of "green" power generated and sold into the national grid. It would also be an example for the community to possibly follow Council's lead.

- ***Social***

The generation of "green" power by Council would serve as an example of what individuals and the community as a whole could achieve in also contributing to the Shire's reduction in the carbon footprint and also for individual residences and businesses.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

There would be initial costs involved, however, the availability of grants to initiate the program and the resultant income from the gross feed in tariff would reduce the payback period and ultimately provide an unencumbered income stream, while reducing our energy costs.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Nil

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COUNCILLOR E A GREEN

GENERAL MANAGER'S NOTE:

This would require a diversion of staff resources that are already stretched due to the restructure, development of the Management Plan (including budgets) and some staff vacancies. It is considered that to attempt to undertake such a review properly in the timeframe would lead to other activities having to lapse.