

1. MAYORAL MINUTE - COALITION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY MAYORS (CoREM)

This report is presented to Council as business without notice, urgent matters, following receipt of an invitation to formally join the Coalition of Renewable Energy Mayors (CoREM). This matter requires consideration by Council prior to the next Ordinary Meeting.

Council must not consider business at a meeting of the council unless notice of the business has been sent to the Councillors at least three (3) days before the meeting, unless a motion is passed to have the business considered at the meeting and the business to be considered is ruled by the Chairperson to be of great urgency on the grounds that it requires a decision by the council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the council.

The General Manager and I attended a Meeting of the Coalition of Renewable Energy Mayors (CoREM) held in Sydney on 3 August 2023. Following the meeting an invitation was received for Narromine Shire Council to formally join CoREM.

The rationale behind CoREM is the imposition of a Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) on a Local Government Area will have a significant impact, both positive and negative. To date, LGAs have not been sufficiently engaged or consulted by state government bodies such as the Energy Corporation, Department of Planning and Environment or the renewable energy proponents, yet LGAs are the ones who will bear the social and financial burden.

By joining together as a coordinated group of LGAs hosting renewables projects we will benefit by sharing information of what works and what does not. We will have greater influence in terms of lobbying government and government departments. Most importantly by adopting a coordinated approach we will be better able to shape the way renewable energy proponents operate in our LGAs.

Financial Implications

The initial contribution will be \$5,000 per participating LGA. There is no annual fee and any further contribution from members will be determined by the Executive and voted by the membership. The contribution will be used for (among other things):

- Legal advice that can be used by all members of CoREM – e.g., infrastructure agreements.
- Creation and maintenance of a website
- Room hires and reasonable meeting expenses

This contribution can be funded from the operating contingency budget – Operational Plan 2023/24

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(Cont'd)**

Legal Implications

CoREM is an unincorporated entity in the form of a Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils in accordance with the exceptions provided under s.358(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Eligibility for membership consists of the Mayors and General Managers of the LGA.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council considers the matter at the meeting on the basis that it is urgent business and requires a decision prior to the next Ordinary Meeting of Council.
2. That Council accept the invitation to join the Coalition of Renewable Energy Mayors with an initial contribution of \$5,000.

Cr Craig Davies
Mayor