

ITEM NO. 10

**FILE NO: 24/80232
EDRMS NO: PSC2021-04195**

WIND FARM OFF PORT STEPHENS

REPORT OF: BROCK LAMONT - STRATEGY & ENVIRONMENT SECTION
MANAGER
DIRECTORATE: COMMUNITY FUTURES

RECOMMENDATION IS THAT COUNCIL:

- 1) Consider the matter in accordance with the previous resolution and reaffirm Council's position on the matter.
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**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 22 OCTOBER 2024
MOTION**

206	Councillor Giacomo Arnott Mayor Leah Anderson It was resolved that Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Notes the decision of Council from 10 and 24 October 2023.2) Agrees to continue the position from the 10 October 2023 motion as Council's ongoing position, which is to oppose the offshore wind project.
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Cr Wells introduced the inclusion of '24 October 2024' into the motion. The mover and seconder accepted the amendment.

Those for the Motion: Crs Leah Anderson, Rosalyn Armstrong, Giacomo Arnott, Peter Francis and Jason Wells.

Those against the Motion: Crs Chris Doohan, Nathan Errington, Paul Le Mottee, Ben Niland and Mark Watson.

The motion was carried on the casting vote of the Mayor.

Cr Doohan gave notice of the following foreshadowed motion:

That Council:

- 1) Notes that the community of Port Stephens vehemently opposes any further progress of exploratory works investigating the possibility of a Wind Turbine Zone off the coast of our beautiful Port Stephens.

- 2) Notes that during the recent Local Government Elections in Port Stephens, 100% of successful candidates aligned themselves to take a unanimous approach in resisting any support for the proposed Wind Turbine Zone off the coast of Port Stephens.
- 3) The General Manager re-engages with our local State and Federal Members to reiterate Councils collective stance refuting any further investigative efforts on the aforementioned Wind Turbine Zone, with the intention of eliminating the project in its entirety.
- 4) Reports back to the elected body of any progress and/or outcomes at the earliest opportunity.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to respond to a resolution of the previous Council.

Council resolved at its meeting held on 10 October 2023 (Minute No. 230) **(ATTACHMENT 1)**, that the General Manager provide a report to Council seeking the Council's opinion on whether to continue opposing the offshore wind farm, or whether to support it, at the following stages:

- a. When the Environmental Impact Statement has been made available
- b. At the first meeting at the start of the new term of Council in 2024 to reaffirm Council's position.

Council resolved a further Notice of Motion at the 24 October 2023 Council meeting in relation to the Offshore Wind Power Zone **(ATTACHMENT 2)**.

Following these resolutions, Council has actively contributed to consultation activities and advocated community concerns during the following Federal Government consultation activities for offshore wind projects:

- Council met with the Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEE) during the public consultation period for the declaration of offshore wind area to raise the community concerns and ensure that Council had all available information to make a valuable submission.
- Council provided a submission to DCCEE regarding the declaration of the offshore wind area, encouraging further consultation to be undertaken with the community and highlighting potential impacts on visual amenity, cultural heritage, marine and coastal environments and local industry and business.
- Council provided a submission to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) regarding the draft Energy Policy Guidelines, noting community concerns and requesting guidance regarding how the State Government will regulate offshore wind and related transmission infrastructure, requesting that this be included in the guidelines.

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- Council wrote to and a delegation met with the Hon. Chris Bowen MP, Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy, to highlight community concerns.
- Council wrote to and a delegation met with Meryl Swanson MP, Federal Member for Paterson, to highlight community concerns.
- Council wrote to the Hon. Kate Washington MP, State Member for Port Stephens, to highlight community concerns.
- Council included an action (DI001) within the Port Stephens Coastal Management Program (CMP) to work collaboratively and share information with key stakeholders about any major projects proposed in the open coastal waters, to ensure compliance with the vision and objectives of the Coastal Management Program and the objects of the Coastal Management Act.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Direction	Delivery Program 2022-2026
Governance	Provide and implement strategic direction and governance of Council.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Source of Funds	Yes/No	Funding (\$)	Comment
Existing budget	No		
Reserve Funds	No		
Developer Contributions (\$7.11)	No		
External Grants	No		
Other	No		

LEGAL, POLICY AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk	Risk Ranking	Proposed Treatments	Within Existing Resources?
There is a risk that the outstanding resolution of Council is not dealt with as the resolution was made.	Low	Deal with the item to reach resolution.	Yes

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There is a risk that Council does not have an endorsed position relating to offshore wind projects.	Medium	Deal with the item to reach resolution.	Yes
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SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Includes Social, Economic and Environmental Implications

The report is in response to a previous resolution of Council seeking to reaffirm Council's position on the matter. The sustainability implications of the matter will vary depending upon the position resolved by Council.

CONSULTATION

Further consultation on the matter is not required as the report seeks only to deal with an outstanding resolution of the former Council.

OPTIONS

- 1) Accept the recommendation.
- 2) Amend the recommendation.
- 3) Reject the recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Ordinary Council Minutes 10 October 2023 - Minute No. 230.
- 2) Notice of Motion - 24 October 2023 - Offshore Wind Power Zone.

COUNCILLORS' ROOM/DASHBOARD

Nil.

TABLED DOCUMENTS

Nil.