

Item 12.1

Notices of Motion

Fossil Fuel Advertising in the City

By Councillor Scully

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note that:

- (i) in 1992, Australia passed national laws that banned advertising of tobacco products because smoking was harmful to the health of people. Advertising these products was linked to an increase in tobacco use. Because of this, Council restricts the advertising of tobacco and other harmful products on Council controlled land and events;
- (ii) coal, oil and gas are affecting our health, environment and climate. Air pollution from burning fossil fuels takes 8.7 million lives prematurely each year – more than tobacco. An estimated 150,000 people are dying due to climate change impacts every year;
- (iii) fossil fuels are the primary cause of global warming, which is impacting our City and Greater Sydney in the form of more intense and frequent heatwaves, storms, bushfires, floods and droughts;
- (iv) we are facing a climate emergency and we are aiming to reach net zero by 2035. The City of Sydney endorsed a declaration of climate emergency in June 2019, firmly stating that the people of Sydney are at risk of climate change. Advertising fossil fuels on Council property or facilities is inconsistent with this adopted Council position;
- (v) restrictions on fossil fuel advertising are in place in France, and at least seven local government areas in the UK and the Netherlands. Similar laws are being debated in the European Union, Germany, Sweden and Canada;
- (vi) the Federal Government has a responsibility to implement restrictions on fossil fuel advertising through national laws, like what was done for tobacco advertising which saw a proven reduction in tobacco consumption per capita, therefore reducing the health burden of tobacco use. A result highly favoured by the Federal Government;
- (vii) Victoria's Yarra and Moreland (Merri-bek) councils have voted for a staff report on how to restrict fossil fuel promotions on council-managed land; and
- (viii) the City of Sydney should also investigate ways to restrict fossil fuel advertising and Council should not accept sponsorships from companies whose main business is the extraction or sale of coal, oil and gas;

- (B) the Lord Mayor be requested to:
- (i) write to the Federal Minister for Communications, The Hon Michelle Rowland MP, to ask the Federal Government to pass national laws that restrict fossil fuel advertising; and
 - (ii) write to Minister for Digital Government and Minister for Customer Service, Victor Dominello MP requesting the NSW Government impose restrictions on fossil fuel advertising; and
- (C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) investigate implementing restrictions on advertising for fossil fuels for any Council controlled signage or property, as well as a ban on accepting sponsorships from companies whose main business is the extraction or sale of coal, oil or gas;
 - (ii) work with other councils, Local Government NSW and the Australian Local Government Association to encourage a consistent approach across local government to fossil fuel advertising; and
 - (iii) ask City staff to undertake a review of City policies or strategies that may allow for the promotion of fossil fuels.

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