

## Item 12.11

### Notices of Motion

#### Ending New Gas Connections in the City of Sydney

By Councillor Ellsmore

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note:
- (i) gas is a fossil fuel which is highly toxic for human health, especially when used indoors for gas heating or gas cooking;
  - (ii) an Australian study published in the Medical Journal of Australia found that gas cooktops are associated with around 12 per cent of childhood asthma in Australia. US researchers from Stanford University have linked gas stoves and ovens to carcinogenic chemicals like benzene. Long-term exposure to benzene is linked to acute lymphocytic leukaemia, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, multiple myeloma, childhood leukaemia, and non-Hodgkin lymphoma;
  - (iii) gas is also expensive. With more than one quarter of households reporting that they are struggling to pay power bills, households face increases of 20 per cent or more in 2023/24, even under caps set by the Australian Energy Regulator;
  - (iv) gas is projected to become increasingly expensive compared to electricity as Australia increases the share of electricity provided by renewable energy; and
  - (v) research by Energy Consumers Australia and the CSIRO, published in August 2023, found that as more households electrify all their appliances, the households that remain connected to gas are likely to pay much higher bills. The research found that by 2030 the average difference in total energy costs, including transport, between a typical fossil-fuelled home and an all-electric home (without solar and a battery) will be around \$2,250 per year;
- (B) Council note that staff are currently reviewing and consolidating the City of Sydney's Development Control Plan/s, with proposed amendments and updates to be reported to Council by the end of 2023, before being placed on public exhibition;
- (C) Council note:
- (i) Waverley Council recently implemented new planning rules which require electric stoves, cooktops and heaters to be installed in new residential development;
  - (ii) Parramatta Council recently implemented new planning rules that require new developments (both residential and non-residential) in its city centre to be all-electric, and that this council is currently considering further changes to require all new non-residential buildings to be all-electric; and

- (iii) Waverley and Parramatta Councils' new gas bans were based on health and economic considerations, though the significant environmental benefits are also noted;
- (D) Council commit to updating its relevant Development Control Plan/s, and other relevant planning instruments, to incorporate new planning provisions to require that all new residential and non-residential development applications across the City of Sydney Local Government Area be all-electric and gas-free, based on the health, economic and environmental benefits that all-electric buildings produce for future occupants; and
- (E) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
  - (i) prepare advice for Council about potential amendments to relevant City of Sydney planning instruments, including the City's Development Control Plan/s, which would require new residential and non-residential development applications to be all-electric and gas-free;
  - (ii) prepare advice for Council about any other potential amendments that would facilitate or speed up the transition of existing resident and non-residential buildings in the City of Sydney to become all-electric and gas-free; and
  - (iii) report back to the Council prior to, or at the same as the City's current review and update of its Development Control Plan/s which is to be placed on public exhibition.

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