
13.2 CR JOANNA WELLS - RESTRICTING FOSSIL FUEL PROMOTIONS

I hereby give notice that I intend to move:

1. Council will not advertise / or accept advertising on any Council controlled signage on Council property by companies whose main business is the extraction or sale of coal, oil and gas.
2. Council will not accept sponsorship from companies whose main business is the extraction or sale of coal, oil or gas.
3. That all relevant Council policies be reviewed and updated to reflect this policy position.
4. That Council advertise this policy position via its website and inform relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to Federal and State Local Members of Parliament and sporting clubs.

BACKGROUND

Advertising is a significant influencer of thought and behaviour. Having declared a climate emergency and knowing that we need to halve emissions by the end of the decade, it would be out of step with these fundamentals for us to enable fossil fuels companies to advertise their products through Council or on Council property. Recent discussion in the community of the sponsorship by Santos of the Tour Down Under illustrate just how quickly the social capital of fossil fuel companies is diminishing. This is a small but significant action that Council can take to illustrate our on-going commitment to reducing emissions.

Council has a duty to ensure that its activities do not adversely impact the health and wellbeing of residents. Because of this, Council restricts the advertising of tobacco and other harmful products on Council controlled land and events.

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.

Fossil fuels are the primary cause of global warming, which is impacting our LGA in the form of more intense and frequent heatwaves, storms, bushfires, floods and droughts. Council declared a Climate Emergency at its Full Council Meeting 22 October 2019. Advertising of companies involved with fossil fuel production or supply or products such as gas, oil and coal on Council property or facilities is inconsistent with this adopted Council position.

Eleven Australian councils have voted to restrict fossil fuel promotions on council-managed land. 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 EU, Germany, Sweden and Canada.

As such, fossil fuels should be added to the list of products that should not be promoted by Council and Council should not accept sponsorships from companies whose main business is the extraction or sale of coal, oil and gas.

A desktop study has been completed of the various sports clubs and, whilst a handful have no website, the vast majority do. Of these, no fossil fuel sponsors were evident. Based on

this,it is reasonable to believe that there will be no detrimental impact on any club currently leasing land from Mitcham Council.

CEO COMMENT

If this Notice of Motion is carried, Administration will apply the new policy position to all new requests and will not able to apply it retrospectively.

In relation to the Council Policies, a scan will be undertaken to identify relevant Policies that are required to be updated. If significant resources are required to be redirected to update existing Policies, a report will be brought back to Council to quantify and resource this.