

APPENDIX A - SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY FORUM

Agenda Darebin Solar Forum – 5 June, 6-9pm, Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre

- 6pm Welcome – Mayor Cr Tim Laurence
- 6.15pm Alternative Technology Association – Present solar options - Damien Moyse
- 6.45pm Community solar examples
 - Darebin Community Energy – Jane Morton
 - Embark/Hepburn Wind – overview from Libby Hynes
 - LIVE community power – David Robinson
- 7.25pm Break & refreshments
- 7.35pm Council Solar and Resource efficiency project
- 8.15pm Workshop (community input into Council options)
- 8.45pm Wrap up and close.

The meeting was attended by: over 50 community members; Crs Greco, Li, and McCarthy; Darebin’s Chief Executive and other council officers. The following summary provides feedback from the workshop where tables of attendees were asked to consider and then report on what projects and priorities they would like to see the \$900,000 spent.

Workshop attendees were also provided with the project aims adopted by Council on May 20, to inform their choices. Comments were invited on changes/improvements to the project aims and no changes were received.

Workshop results summary

Darebin Solar Forum - Key Workshop Themes	
Rates and financial loan mechanisms	7 projects involving rates or finance options were suggested including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - financial mechanisms involving rates as a payback instrument - rates discount for properties with solar - assisting low income households via a rates mechanism - environmental upgrade agreements for local businesses in conjunction with a rates payback mechanism - high incentive loans (no interest if payed back within 1 year)
Community solar	3 Community solar projects were suggested including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rent (long term) industrial roof tops for community solar projects - flagship large scale project on a council roof with community investment to double Council commitment - multiple small scale (residential) solar

Education /Promotion	<p>Education was a strong theme with several tables suggesting a range of education and promotional activities including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - door knocking - a promotional booth at shopping centres - general education - promotion of Council solar targets and how Council/community are tracking towards that - 1 group allocated \$100,000 to education but did not specify a specific project
Feasibility studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - feasibility study of educational institution buildings - survey of Darebin rooftops - feasibility study + plan as per Beyond Zero Emissions Zero Carbon Australia 2020 - establish legal framework for community solar; establish suitable sites and power consumers; separate sites and consumers
Bulk Buy Programs	2 tables suggested bulk buy programs
Other suggestions included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An adaptive assets strategy - A register for landlords and renters to help make property more sustainable

Table by Table proposed project and cost breakdowns

Project Type/Description	Project Aims	Cost (\$000)	Table #	Amount/notes
Finance scheme to reduce upfront cost - high incentive loans (no interest if pay off in less than a year e.g. Harvey Norman)		900	4	
Education + Promotion + regular contact - low/medium income homes - small/large business - forums - hotline FAQ		90		
Solar + Energy Efficiency -door knock - info booth at Northcote plaza		200		
Use money to borrow more money		900		\$2,090,000

Project Type/Description	Project Aims	Cost (\$000)	Table #	Amount/notes
Council establish graphic indicator on solar uptake and publish widely; website, newspapers, social media	6,7	30	3	
Flagship large scale project on a Council roof with community investment to double Council commitment	6,7,1,2	500		with 300-500k community invest
Low income household installation scheme		350		
Big educational buildings (e.g. NMIT) feasibility study		100		
Survey of Darebin roofs		25		\$1,005,000

Project Type/Description	Project Aims	Cost (\$000)	Table #	Amount/notes
Bulk buy to reduce cost of purchase	1,2,3,4,6,7	100k for education/\$800k for bulk community purchase	9	
Council purchase solar for communities - rates payback mechanism				
Cheaper rates for residents with solar				
Small scale 'community solar' model e.g. Council purchase 20 residential systems, residents pay for solar energy at a reduced rate; money then gets re-invested				\$900,000
A register for landlords and renters to help make property more sustainable	1,3,4,6,	100	1	
Establish legal framework for community solar; establish suitable sites and power consumers; separate sites and consumers				protection of community owned investment
Low income household program through rates				\$100,000

Project Type/Description	Project Aims	Cost (\$000)	Table #	Amount/notes
Campaign and Education for people - how to reduce consumption - How to well use incomes and invest in efficiency * Promote good stories in newspapers	1	70	5	
Allowance + incentives for houses to become efficient (retrofit)	6	50		
Assistance to advance the right product according to circumstances (professional qualified advice)	5	500		
Again increasing the energy prices especially in low income homes	4	280		\$ 900,000

Project Type/Description	Project Aims	Cost (\$000)	Table #	Amount/notes
Bulk buy for households Green Power targets for low SES (?)	1,2,4,6,7	90	8	tender for best deal form retailers
Rent (long term) industrial roof tops for community solar projects	1,2,3	270		negotiate with commercial operators e.g. Bunnings
Special [fittings??] of council buildings for solar power	1,2,6	270		
Communication + advocacy for CALD communities	1,4,6,7	180		
Feasibility study + plan as per Beyond Zero Emissions Zero Carbon Australia 2020		90		\$ 900,000

Project Type/Description	Project Aims	Cost (\$000)	Table #	Amount/notes
Adaptive assets policy at Darebin to enable rollout of solar PV on all buildings with 10 year payback		cost neutral	7	
Rates notice - reinforce the message and opportunity		existing resources		
Energy Performance Contracts for local businesses + Environmental upgrade agreements using Council rates system to finance over time through deferred payment scheme		50		
Refer a friend scheme - a bonus for getting a friend to sign up		100		
Education		900		\$ 1,050,000