



29 August 2013

Chief Executive Officer, City of Sydney
Attn: Nik Midlam
By email: renewables@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Dear Title Name,

Re: City of Sydney Decentralised Energy Master Plan – Renewable Energy 2012-30

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon the Decentralised Energy Master Plan – Renewable Energy 2012-30. As you are aware, Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) is an association of sixteen Councils (including the City of Sydney) formed for mutual benefit through collaboration and cooperation. Collectively, the group extends across an area covering more than 600 square kilometres, with a population in excess of 1.6 million people. Our region comprises approximately one quarter of the population of greater metropolitan Sydney and is highly developed, with a complex and relatively dense mix of industrial, commercial and residential land usage.

SSROC agrees with the City of Sydney that decentralised energy from renewable sources is the right approach to addressing the need to reduce our dependence upon fossil fuels. We are currently developing a renewable energy master plan, *Our Energy Future*, for eight of our member Councils, and appreciate the presentations made to the project team and to the boarder SSROC Environmental Management Group by the City of Sydney on its own plan. The report and supporting technical appendices contain valuable analysis: more and more research indicates the feasibility of switching to renewable energy sources. Through our own project we hope to be able to promote this approach and to increase the uptake of renewables in our region, and would be pleased to collaborate with the City in the future.

The enabling actions identified in the plan are all valuable, and other Councils should consider similar actions. Some of the actions would benefit from collective advocacy at the regional level in support of the City's position. SSROC has been involved in the Total Environment Centre's campaign for reform of the National Electricity Market for some years, and will continue to offer support to this and to the City's other enabling actions.

The approach to developing *Our Energy Future* has been different from of the City of Sydney. The eight Councils (Ashfield, Bankstown, Canada

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Canterbury, Kogarah, Leichhardt, Marrickville and Rockdale) have asked the Institute for Sustainable Futures at UTS to consider a range of options for the financial arrangements to deliver renewable energy solution, as well as to identify suitable technology options, with the role of the Councils and/or SSROC being outlined in relation to each technology/finance combination. The work is currently under way, with the final report due in September. I hope this work will prove complementary to the City's.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Northey
General Manager
Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils