



Parramatta Climate Action Network

Meeting with Tanya Gadiel, State Member for Parramatta -12thFebruary 2010

Present: Tanya Gadiel, MP; Annie Nielsen, Anna Breust, Harry Stevens, Bill Tibben (ParraCAN)

Summary of Discussion

The meeting focused on 'renewable energy and energy efficiencies' but a wide range of topics was discussed

- The imperative that the State Government continue to drive development of renewable energy and energy efficiencies in any way that it can
- Problems with building more coal fired power stations and of failing to get rid of the old ones which are bad polluters
- problems associated with the building of the Tillegra Dam
- The dangers of jeopardising Sydney's water supply by allowing under- mining of existing dams – there is evidence of cracking now and also overseas experience
- co-location of coal and solar to improve the efficiency of generating energy this way
- 'hot rocks power generation' – needs major support to make it a practical viability
- Wave power and tide power (wave power still at the experimental stage)
- The problem with the Federal Government's energy efficiency certificates (the number issued has driven down their value thereby undercutting development in the industry)
- The value of placing solar PV panels on schools – **is it possible to advocate this strongly** – ParraCAN applauded the Government for adopting a gross feed-in tariff
- Wind farms: the development of wind power as a substantial source of renewable energy and the need to continue to develop (eg Silverton Scheme) – much more needed
- Codes for building that promote energy efficiencies are a step in the right direction - it is great that there are now 4 star energy rated and prize winning buildings, but there is also the need to address retrofitting of existing infrastructure
- The lack of backyard or open space in many suburban developments drives people to using clothes driers... maybe stronger support for balcony clothes drying and related energy saving strategies (some community resistance to this)
- Green jobs and the potential for creating them in Parramatta was raised – **but not discussed**
- Wind-up gadgets (eg torches) as a way of cutting down dependence on batteries (Annie to drop in her torch)
- Some tips for improving personal energy use were tabled

To Do

- ParraCAN to forward some more information to Tanya on renewable energy developments and on energy efficiencies
- Annie to drop off her wind-up torch

Bill Tibben, For ParraCAN

12.02.10