

# Sustainable Neighbourhoods Celebration

18 November 2017

Notes from solar discussion

## Jonathan Wood Council Senior Sustainable Living Officer

[Solar project ideas](#) (presented to Greater Charlestown SNG)

### Discussion points:

- Need for advocacy to government to implement regulations, incentives and encouragement to include solar at build stages. Ie within standard building regulations like BASIX
  - Relevant to State and Federal governments
  - Council is currently revising local planning controls.
- Real estate education would also be helpful. That is, to educate real estate agents about the benefits and long term cost savings of solar installations, and to utilise them more as a selling point for properties.
- There is some potential for conflict between providing / maintaining solar access, and protecting / improving tree and shade cover.  
Jonathan noted that with current levels of tree cover / shading, there is still significant amount of roof space and very large potential for energy production.
- Advocate for Council to establish sustainable development guidelines, encompassing more than just solar, eg building materials, aspect, solar passive design etc.
- Noted that there are significant issues related to waste from lithium ion batteries.
- Current opportunities to help promote:
  - **Community Financed Solar project.** Currently seeking expressions of interest from individuals and businesses. Contact Thomasen Knight for more information, [tknight@lakemac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tknight@lakemac.nsw.gov.au).
    - Examples of Community financed solar projects: <http://pingala.org.au/>.
    - Information session for businesses, 1 December, <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/community-financed-solar-information-for-businesses-tickets-39680640865>.
  - **Community Renewable Energy Toolkit Workshop**  
6 and 7 December, Maitland, <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/community-renewable-energy-toolkit-workshop-tickets-38574510399>.