

PAUL SCULLY'S WOLLONGONG

WRAP UP



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Climate change: What we can all do



It's natural that a community living between the mountains and the sea will be conscious of its local environment.



**I believe that climate change is real and, like you; I am conscious of the impact that the changing**

**climate is having locally and on other parts of Australia.**

Our community is also looking to governments to act, but unfortunately recent election results suggest that this action may not come any time soon.

However, local industries and businesses are not waiting for government directions – they are already investing to reduce their impact on the environment and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Port Kembla Steelworks, for example, is one of the most carbon intensive industries in Australia, yet it is using more renewable energy

in its steel production than ever before with some of the steel produced going towards the fabrication of renewable energy technologies such as wind turbines.

Other businesses are looking to reduce their carbon footprints too. Using energy more efficiently is good for the environment and good for business.

At a personal and household level we can do the same.

Many people ask me what steps they can take, and what government support might be available to them and their household, to help reduce their water and energy use.

This edition of my newsletter tries to answer those question by providing some information on the NSW Government programs and rebates that might be available to you and your family.

I have also included the contact details of some local volunteer organisations who are working to improve our local environment. Wollongong has one of the highest rates of volunteering in NSW so you might want to consider giving some of your time to these organisations to help out as well.

Action on climate change begins with action by every one of us. I hope that this newsletter provides a useful guide and information.

**If I can provide any additional information please do not hesitate to contact my office on 4226 5700 or send me an email to [wollongong@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wollongong@parliament.nsw.gov.au).**





# Check out these NSW Government programs

## ENERGY SAVER WEBSITE

The Energy Saver website will provide you with lots of different ways that you may be able to reduce your energy use and consumption that best suit the ways that you live and work.

Check it all out at  
<https://energysaver.nsw.gov.au>



## DISCOUNTED ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING

LED lighting can help reduce your energy consumption and electricity bills. If you currently have halogen downlights in your house you may be able to have the purchase and installation of LED lights subsidised.

To access the offer you need to contact the approved provider for the Wollongong area, Aussie Greenmarks on either **1300 246 553** or via email at [enquiries@aussiegreenmarks.com.au](mailto:enquiries@aussiegreenmarks.com.au)



## APPLIANCE REPLACEMENT OFFER

Discounts on new energy efficient fridges and televisions may be available to you. Swap in your old fridge or television and receive 40 per cent off the cost of a new fridge, or 50 per cent off the cost of a new television.

To be eligible you must be a NSW resident who holds either a pensioner concession card, a health care or low income card or a Veterans' Affairs Gold card.

If you don't meet this criteria though, you may still be able to access the offer through a local community service organisation, so check the Energy Savers website for more information.



## INSTALLING A SOLAR-BATTERY SYSTEM

The Empowering Homes Program provides interest free loans of up to \$9,000 for a battery system, and up to \$14,000 for a solar battery system, to eligible households.

To register your interest in the program visit <https://energy.nsw.gov.au/renewables/clean-energy-initiatives/empowering-homes>



## ENERGY SWITCH

Energy Switch is a new service through Service NSW which compares electricity plans and helps you switch seamlessly to a new plan or provider if you want to take up a better offer.

Find out if you're getting the best deal now: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/use-energy-switch-comparison-tool> or contact Service NSW on **13 77 88** or visit their Wollongong or Warrawang offices.



## RETURN & EARN SCHEME

Most people know about the Return & Earn Scheme by now. But you may not know just how many locations there are throughout Wollongong.

Over the counter services are available at Vinnies stores in Fairy Meadow and Warrawang. There are reverse vending machines at The Fraternity Club, Woolworths Wollongong, Coles Berkeley and Coles Warrawang. There's also the automated depot at the Vinnies Bulk Container Deposit Centre in Unanderra.

Find local Return & Earn stations here: <https://returnandearn.org.au/>

## GREEN POWER



Green Power is a national accreditation program that allows

businesses and households to purchase and use government accredited renewable energy from their electricity provider.

The Green Power program is now available at no additional cost through most major electricity providers in NSW. It's often presented as an option with a green tick when you sign up with a new provider, or offered to you as an option when you are switching energy plans.

The program enables your electricity provider to purchase renewable energy on your behalf, often the same amount of energy that you use, and feed it back into the grid. The program allows customers to support the renewable energy sector through investment and purchase of renewable energy, and means that there is more renewable energy being put back into the electricity grid.

Find out how you can sign up to Green Power with your electricity provider here: <https://www.greenpower.gov.au/>



# SAVING WATER



There are a number of programs that Sydney Water offers to households and businesses to help reduce water consumption and water waste volumes. The less water we waste, the less water we use.

## WATERFIX PROGRAM

The WaterFix program offers a free check by a Sydney Water plumber for small water leaks and any opportunities to save water by installing water efficient devices.

There are no charges for the call out and check, you are only charged for work that is done, which will be incorporated into your next water bill, or can be spread out over consecutive bills if it exceeds \$200.

There are also limited time offers available now through NSW Government subsidies for free repairs and deductions on prices for some items.

Find out more about the program here: <http://www.sydneywater.com.au/SW/your-home/helping-you-save-water/waterfix-residential/index.htm> or call Sydney Water on 13 20 92.

## GREYWATER DIVERSION SYSTEM

Sydney Water offers the installation of a NSW Health accredited greywater diversion device to divert greywater to a small holding tank and then to an irrigation system below the soil surface, to ensure that as much water as possible is put to use rather than being accidentally wasted.

Find out more about the systems here: <http://www.sydneywater.com.au/SW/your-home/using-water-wisely/greywater-reuse/index.htm> or call Sydney Water on 13 20 92.

## RAINWATER TANKS

Sydney Water also offers advice on rainwater tanks based on an assessment of your needs and available space.

Rainwater systems can save up to 40% of your drinking water supply when installed and plumbed correctly.

Find out more about this from Sydney Water here: <http://www.sydneywater.com.au/SW/your-home/saving-water-at-home/rainwater-tanks/buying-a-rainwater-tank/index.htm> or call Sydney Water on 13 20 92.

## IMPROVING YOUR SPORTING CLUBS WATER EFFICIENCY

Sydney Water offers advice on improving water efficiency in clubs, sporting groups and fields.

Find out more about what steps your community organisation can take to reduce your water usage visit <http://www.sydneywater.com.au/SW/your-business/managing-your-water-use/programs-and-resources/index.htm> or contact Sydney Water on 13 20 92.







## Local programs

### MOBILE MUSTER DROP OFFS

Old mobile phones sit around in our homes gathering dust. But 99% of the materials of an old mobile phone can be recycled.

Wollongong City Council has a number of Mobile Muster Drop Off locations where your old mobile phones can be taken for recycling and the reuse of the materials in them in a safe and secure way.

**Check out all the locations here: <https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/my-community/sustainable-living/reduce-waste/mobile-muster> or call Wollongong City Council on 4227 7111.**

### E-WASTE RECYCLING

Wollongong City Council's Community Recycling Centre is a free and easy way to recycle problematic waste items from your home, such as whitegoods and appliances, in a way that will not harm the environment.

**The centre is located at the Whytes Gully waste disposal depot at Kembla Grange.**

### BUSHCARE AND LANDCARE

Bushcare and Landcare are two volunteer organisations in the Illawarra that work to look after our local environment. These groups plant native trees, remove weeds, clear rubbish and help regenerate bush areas.

There are over 60 Bushcare groups in the Illawarra who meet at different times and locations and work with Wollongong City Council.

**Find out how you can get involved here: <https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/my-community/get-involved/volunteering/bushcare> or call Council on 4227 7111.**

**In addition to their volunteering work, Landcare also run local events on environmental issues. Find out more about the group here: <http://www.landcareillawarra.org.au/>**

### WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL TREE DONATIONS

Every financial year, schools and community centres in Wollongong can apply to receive up to 30 plants donated by the Wollongong Botanic Gardens.

**If your school or community centre is interested in taking part in the donation program email [botanicgarden@wollongong.nsw.gov.au](mailto:botanicgarden@wollongong.nsw.gov.au) with your request.**

### GREEN CONNECT ZERO WASTE SERVICES

Green Connect is a local organisation in Warrawong which promotes and teaches sustainability. The Zero Waste Service helps schools, events and organisations to be more sustainable and reduce waste going to landfill, with the aim of producing zero waste.

**Find out more about the Zero Waste Service here: <https://green-connect.com.au/zero-waste-services/> or call the Zero Waste Manager on 4243 1537.**

## HERE TO HELP

### Paul Scully MP, Your State Member for Wollongong

If I can help with any State Government matters please call my office on **(02) 4226 5700** or send an email to **[wollongong@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wollongong@parliament.nsw.gov.au)**

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