

MEDIA RELEASE

8 October 2024

SAVE OUR COAST - SYDNEY COMMUNITIES KEPT IN THE DARK ABOUT MASSIVE OFFSHORE WIND INSTALLATION NEAR CRONULLA

Coordinator: Alex O'Brien - 0438 890 242

FREE Community Event
Sunday 13 October 2024 -
Cronulla RSL from 12 noon

High Profile Speakers

Dr Michael Feneley, Dr Adi Paterson, Environmentalist Steven Nowakowski, Grant Piper, Alex O'Brien, Ben Abbott, Sandra Bourke & others

The National Rational Energy Network (NREN), a national volunteer network of regional communities, is urging Sydney residents to get involved in the energy debate and to take a stand against the Federal Government's proposed offshore wind (OSW) installation located 20-25km off the coast of Cronulla. Despite the massive scale of this industrial development, communities in the Sutherland Shire and Eastern Suburbs are being excluded from the poor consultation by the Albanese Labor Government to date.

Spanning an area around seven times the size of the Royal National Park, this industrial installation will sit within a crucial whale migration corridor. The OSW industry is foreign-based, high-cost, and experimental, with only 25 floating turbines operating around the world. Floating OSW turbines are the highest-cost form of intermittent energy, raising concerns amid a cost-of-living crisis. With foreign companies poised to benefit while Australian taxpayers bear the burden, NREN is stepping up to inform and mobilise Sydney communities to engage in the energy discussion before it is too late for our economy and pristine coast and ocean.

At noon, 13 October 2024, NREN will host a critical community information event to highlight the true scale, costs, and risks of the project, as well as its potential to significantly damage our coastline and marine ecosystem. Key topics include:

- **Wasted Dollars and Environmental Impact:** The true cost of the current energy rollout, including total system costs, environmental degradation, and economic repercussions.
- **Lack of Consultation:** Communities, including those in the Sutherland Shire, are being excluded from meaningful input on this massive industrial development.
- **Massive Industrial Scale:** The project covers an area up to seven times larger than the Royal National Park, permanently altering the coast, ocean floor, and environment.
- **Excessive Costs:** OSW is the most expensive form of intermittent energy, placing a significant financial burden on taxpayers now and in the future.
- **Alternative Energy Options for Australia:** Including nuclear energy.

At the event, NREN will also launch its “**Save Our Coast**” campaign, advocating for fair community consultation and responsible energy project planning.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Sunday, October 13th
- **Time:** 12PM - 4PM (Doors open at 11AM)
- **Venue:** Cronulla RSL

Speakers include:

- Dr. Adi Paterson, former ANSTO CEO and Nuclear for Australia Expert
- Mr Grant Piper, Chair of NREN
- Mr Steven Nowakowski, Environmentalist & renown photographer (video presentation)
- Dr Michael Fennelly, Cardiologist and Research Scientist, leading the fight against offshore wind at Norah Heads
- Ms Sandra Bourke, Spokesperson for Advance Australia
- Mr Ben Abbott, President of “No Turbines Port Stephen” - supported by Mr Bruce Murray, President HNTGPA
- Mr Alex O’Brien, President of Responsible Future (Illawarra) – HOST MC

“This project is being pushed forward without the voices of Sydney’s residents, especially those in the Sutherland Shire. It’s absurd that a development six to seven times the size of the Royal National Park is moving ahead without proper technical analysis and community consultation,” said Grant Piper, Chair of NREN.

“Our event will be a chance for the community to learn what is really going on and to take a stand against the unchecked economic and environmental risks,” added Piper. “At NREN, we are committed to advocating for the best interests of our communities, our country, and promoting transparency in the energy sector,” he concluded.

“Offshore wind is one of the most expensive forms of unreliable energy, and it is Australian taxpayers who will foot the bill. Taxpayers are already struggling under this government's failure to lower electricity costs and provide real cost-of-living relief. At this free community event, experts will present the real costs and hidden risks that have been concealed from public discussions,” stated Sandra Bourke. “This is yet another destructive project being imposed on Australians without any real understanding of the disastrous long-term economic and environmental consequences,” she emphasised.

"The Labor, Green, and Teal politicians are not listening and not caring, so we must make our voices louder to save our coast. This event is a chance for the community to come together, understand what is being done to them, and stand up for an affordable, clean, and secure future," she concluded.

FREE tickets at EVENTBRITE: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/save-our-coast-environment-energy-info-session-free-cronulla-event-tickets-1033388261107?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

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