

Hi folks,

I want to report - briefly - on last nite's meeting of Tweed Shire Council: a big win for renewable energy! And a small win for no water mining : deferred to December 7th.

Congratulations to all those who contacted the Council with concerns about water extraction for bottling and trucking along Rowlands Creek Road. Trevor White spoke really well at Community Access and then a very nervous 11-year old , Audrey from Uki, told how worried she is about danger to kids playing/walking along that road. Very few dry eyes in the chamber!

Councillors voted 5-2 to defer a decision pending further investigator.

The big win was for a the REAP (Renewable Energy Action Plan) devised by TweedCAN President Greg Reid who lobbied every Councillor and worked out details with staff to achieve a unanimous vote.

Put most simply, the REAP now has a target of 25% renewable energy by 2022 and 50% by 2025, including about 1MegaWatt of solar in stage 1 and 2.3MW with storage in stage 2. Stage 2 funding will be voted before the next Council elections in 2020. The Plan looks to save money at the same time as it helps save the planet .

A hearty congrats on a big step in the right direction for all of us who have been lobbying for Tweed Council to divest from fossil fuels and invest in renewables. TSC now has a stake in a renewable energy future. Thanks all involved, and especially Greg!

Keep up the fine work!

Sledge