



November 13, 2009

Illawarra Jobs Plan to Transition to a Low Carbon Economy

Premier Nathan Rees today released the Green Jobs Illawarra Action Plan – the first of its kind in Australia – to help the Illawarra region develop sustainable jobs and a stronger green economy.

Mr Rees said the plan will be used as a model to help carbon intensive industries across NSW to develop jobs plans to transition to a low carbon economy.

“This strategy provides an excellent blueprint for regions that are traditionally supported by industries like coal and steel to build long term plans for the future,” he said.

“I will provide the Prime Minister with a copy of the Illawarra plan as a template for how green jobs can be created to move communities to a low carbon future.

“The Action Plan includes a number of recommendations, including increased funding for education courses in green industries and developing ‘centres of excellence’ for renewable energy research and displays of eco-houses.

“We have committed to the scoping of the flagship project of the plan - the ‘Green Street’ project - which will involve the construction of around eight display homes with six star energy efficiency ratings, 100 per cent water recycling and 100 per cent local power generation.

“It is a compelling example of how Governments can support carbon intensive local economies to transition towards cleaner greener jobs and industries.

“Many workers in traditional industries in Illawarra are playing a critical role in this change – for example, steel from the region is helping renewable energy companies build world-class wind farms and wave machines,” he said.

Minister for the Illawarra David Campbell said a number of the recommendations of the Green Jobs Illawarra Action Plan will be implemented immediately.

“\$150,000 will also be allocated to fund education and training courses in the Illawarra focused on green industries to lay the foundations for next generation of Illawarra workers,” said Mr Campbell.

“These projects combined will see new apprentices in training, working on sustainable green housing projects, gaining skills that will place them in good stead for the green jobs markets of the future.

“The Illawarra will become a model for regional economies looking to boost green jobs and transition into a carbon constrained economy, “he said.