

Ready for Renewables email template to use or adapt. We suggest that you maintain the wording of the proposed actions which are in italics.

Dear Councillor,

I'm writing to you today because NSW has a gas problem. NSW households use just under half of the state's domestic gas for heating homes, hot water and cooking food.

Methane emissions from gas warm our climate 83% faster than carbon dioxide in the short term. Gas burned in our homes and public spaces can have serious health consequences, contributing to asthma, some cancers and reproductive health issues. Billions of taxpayer dollars go to propping up the gas industry despite providing very few jobs and paying almost nothing in taxes or royalties.

The pressure is on - NSW risks being locked into the damage to soil, water and climate caused by 850 gas wells drilled around Narrabri and a gas fired power station at Kurri Kurri if we don't urgently switch off the gas in the coming decade. And householders like me can't stay tied to volatile gas prices that keep rising and rising.

We can't afford gas and we don't need it.

The good news is that renewables are ready to electrify most things we use gas for. Local governments have a powerful role to play in the transition towards electrification, and some are starting to put in place plans to switch away from environmentally damaging gas.

We acknowledge that Blue Mountains City Council was the third Council in NSW to declare a climate emergency, recognising the need for urgent climate action. Council has adopted the target of net zero emissions from operations by the end of 2025 and has joined the [Cities Race to Zero](#) which will see Council expand its focus into community emissions reduction.

BMCC now have the opportunity to lead NSW Councils in powering off gas and transitioning to renewables through the actions listed below. This will have a significant impact towards meeting net zero targets.

I write to ask that BMCC make a positive difference to our gas demand by:

Refusing new gas connections – *This would require drafting a planning scheme amendment to ban new gas connections across the municipality and requesting planning scheme amendments of the state planning minister*

Phasing gas out of Council buildings and replacing all gas use with renewable electric appliances, particularly heavy users like heating water for swimming pools. *Although as soon as possible is optimum, BMCC could commit to transitioning all gas appliances in Council facilities at the end of their useful life with renewable powered electric appliances.*

Writing to the State Energy Minister and urging for the State to plan a way out of gas as a critical priority. *This could include requesting a rapid transition from gas state wide, the equitable planned retirement of the gas network and an expansion of the energy upgrade program to help us switch off gas forever.*

I request that you table the above requests as motions at the coming Council meeting where these are not currently part of an active Council plan.

As your constituent, I hope you will represent the best interests of our community in taking this practical, sensible and easily achievable action.

I look forward to hearing from you about what steps Council will take or is taking in response to my request.

Sincerely,

[Your name]