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MEDIA RELEASE

How can the economic opportunities of renewable energy be optimised in response to COVID-19?

The impact of the COVID-19 crisis has increased the need to look at opportunities for economic expansion in NSW. As part of the response to the pandemic, it's important to consider what opportunities are available within the renewable energy sector.

The Committee on Environment and Planning will be looking at this issue as part of its current inquiry into sustainability of energy supply and resources in NSW. Consideration of the capacity and economic opportunities of renewable energy for work forces, industries and the wider economy impacted by COVID-19 has been added to the inquiry's terms of reference.

“In submissions to the inquiry, stakeholders told us about the significant employment potential in the renewables sector including through innovation, technology, construction, maintenance and exports”, said Committee Chair Alex Greenwich MP. “It's important that any efforts to expand the economy consider how this potential can be translated into financial support and opportunities for communities and businesses”.

The Committee has asked the NSW Government to commission a report on the economic opportunities of the renewables sector and a low carbon economy. The report could look at how investing in renewable energy projects would stimulate impacted communities, businesses and individuals.

“We acknowledge the hardship being experienced by individuals and businesses in this difficult time. As a Committee, we want to ensure any and all available opportunities for job growth are maximised. It's important that renewable energy is a part of this conversation, and that the financial response is innovative and effective”.

In conducting future site visits and public hearings, the Committee will consider this new perspective on how opportunities of renewable energy can support impacted communities, and the economy more broadly.

Submissions received to the inquiry can be found on the Committee's [webpage](#). Details of future site visits and public hearings will also be made available on the webpage.

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