

## **COGENERATION AND TRIGENERATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Organisation:** Cowra Council  
**Name:** Mr WJ West  
**Position:** Mayor  
**Date Received:** 3/09/2013



## *Office of the Mayor*

Cowra Shire Council  
Private Bag 342  
Cowra NSW 2794

Phone: 02 6340 2013  
Fax: 02 6340 2011  
Email: [council@cowra.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cowra.nsw.gov.au)  
Internet: [www.cowra.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cowra.nsw.gov.au)

Reference No: 266323

Your Ref:

3 September 2013

The Chair  
Public Accounts Committee  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Submission to the Inquiry into Cogeneration & Trigeneration in NSW**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to your inquiry and relate Council's experiences working with existing cogeneration and trigeneration plants.

Other than a small hydro-electric generator operating at Wyangala Dam, the Cowra Shire is devoid of commercial scale cogeneration and trigeneration facilities.

Despite this, the Cowra community is interested in exploring new initiatives and technologies in partnership with other tiers of government, the business industry sector and interested community groups.

To optimally position Cowra to grow and prosper in a low carbon emissions future, Cowra Shire Council has successfully completed the Cowra Distributed Energy Plan 2012 and has carried out Level Two Energy Audits on all high energy consuming Council owned facilities. The Council is also embarking on a Cowra Energy Wise Program that aims to raise community awareness of energy wise initiatives and their benefits in the local context.

Cowra Council works collaboratively with a number of government organisations and community groups to explore the practical application of cogeneration and trigeneration in the Shire. Council's Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee and the Cowra Low Emissions Action Network (CLEAN) are particularly interested in developing alternative energy projects in the Cowra Shire. Projects currently being investigated include a cogeneration biomass plant and a solar farming project. While these projects are in their early stages of feasibility planning, they have provided Council with experiences worthy of consideration by the inquiry.

It is Council's experience that new cogeneration and trigeneration initiatives are being hampered by the low value of feed-in tariffs available to developers of renewable energy facilities. As a result there are few incentives to build facilities on a large scale that serve a wider energy market. Council would encourage greater incentives for new energy providers to sell surplus energy produced from their new plants on the wider centralised power market.

The Chair  
Public Accounts Committee

3 September 2013

---

New legislation is needed that is flexible enough to support the establishment of alternative energy plants in regional NSW.

Yours faithfully



WJ West  
**Mayor**