



PortAugusta

CITY COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

Eye to the future as coal-fired electricity generation ends

Today marks the end of significant era in Port Augusta and South Australia as electricity generation at the Port Augusta Power Stations ceases.

Port Augusta Mayor Sam Johnson said today is a day of mixed emotions for Port Augusta residents, while many are pleased to see an end to the emissions and coal dust that affects areas of the city, everyone feels for the workers and their families that no longer have employment.

"Today is undoubtedly a significant day in our City's history," Mayor Johnson said.

"I feel deeply for Alinta workers and their families as they face a time of change and uncertainty as we see the switch effectively turned off on 62 years of coal electricity generation in South Australia. Fortunately a number of the Alinta workers have already gained employment at Sundrop Farms, a new industry for Port Augusta based on renewable energy technology.

"I am certain that our future will still be in energy generation as national leaders in renewable power. We've already had a number of positive indicators that Port Augusta is ideally situated for a solar thermal plant, which has strongly been lobbied for by Repower Port Augusta. We've also got a number of interested parties looking at wind and solar options so this places us strongly to position ourselves for a new future."

Mayor Johnson paid tribute to the late Mayor Joy Baluch who passionately advocated for a renewable energy future for Port Augusta.

"The move to a clean energy future began a number of years ago, before any of us could have foreseen the closure of the power stations. Mayor Joy Baluch was a leader in lobbying governments to change their thinking on power generation and support renewable energy technologies.

"Because of her efforts and the support shown by Council and the community, we are perfectly positioned to transition to a new future of electricity generation. Port Augusta is a resilient community - history shows it - and history will show that not only will we make it through this time, we will become national leaders."

ENDS

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Date 9/5/2016