

## Mirboo North Explores Community Energy

Mirboo North residents gathered at the Walter J Tuck Reserve last week to discuss the first steps for the Mirboo North Community Energy Hub project.

Approximately 100 community members were in attendance at the community engagement forum to hear about the project and how it will change energy consumption in Mirboo North.

The Hub received a \$50,000 grant from the State Government's New Energy Jobs Fund to undertake the project.

The project will undertake a feasibility study to consider site, funding and technology options for a community owned energy generation system for Mirboo North.

A panel of consultants have been appointed by the Hub who will work as a team to undertake the feasibility study.

The consultants will consider different renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydro and bioenergy as well as storage options including micro grids, batteries and interactive grids.

Council's Sustainability Officer Heidi Hamm is supporting the project by sitting on the project control group and said the Mirboo North Community Energy Hub project was an innovative way for the residents of Mirboo North to reduce their impact on the environment.

"The Mirboo North community is leading the way in the community energy space to reduce their impact on the environment, create jobs and reduce energy generation costs.

"Congratulations to the committee at the Mirboo North Community Energy Hub for successfully applying for this grant that will no doubt be a great influence on future energy use in Mirboo North," said Ms Hamm.

The study is due to be completed by June 2017 and can then be utilised to apply for additional funding for project implementation.

Any individuals wanting more information on the project can contact the Mirboo North Community Energy Hub on 0413 590 220. .

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