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Media Release

For Immediate Release

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WinZero - A Clear and Powerful Voice for Sustainability

New coalition of Wingecarribee environmental groups officially launches today!

Southern Highlands, NSW, July 9th 2020.

Before the pandemic but still in the haze of bushfires, members of the local community demonstrated concern for the environment in greater numbers than ever before. A full house at Bowral Town Hall for the Climate Forum, was followed months later by a Climate Emergency March, through Bowral in sweltering heat.

Acknowledging their concern, the Wingecarribee Shire Council decided to join 130 other local governments around the country, and on 12 February this year declared a Climate Emergency.

To assist in a community-wide transition a group has been formed to represent, and co-ordinate, all the environmental groups in the Shire. That organisation is **WinZero**. It officially launches today, and its ultimate goal is for Wingecarribee Shire to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050, if not before. A goal that's easily achievable, says WinZero spokesperson Gaye White.

"Everything we need to become 'net zero' in this beautiful place where we live is at our fingertips right now. We just need to make it happen, and the result will be an environment our children can grow up in that is sustainable for the present, and many future generations." she said.

Through the Climate Emergency Declaration, Council has committed to develop a Community Climate Change Emergency Plan which has the potential to deliver a range of support programs in response to the Emergency. There is, however, no express budget provision for climate action projects, which is something that WinZero will be vigorously pursuing in the near future.

"It has been so easy just to get on with life, day by day, and not really plan too far ahead. We're all guilty of it, but I think living through the smoke for months on end was a wake-up call, and now there's a growing desire to 'do something'. We aim to harness that desire, and channel it into action and provide greater economic certainty in a region that's been hit pretty hard in recent times." said Gaye.

WinZero will be holding events whenever it's safe to do so. In the meantime if you'd like to know more, and stay up-to-date with what's happening, you are encouraged to visit www.winzero.com.au and sign up for the Newsletter. WinZero also plans to engage with Council and the Community over the coming months and years, and is always open to new ideas, suggestions, and of course volunteers. Please join us in this transition to a more sustainable future.

WinZero Inc

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WinZero is a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers from the local community. It represents Low Carbon Living Southern Highlands (LCLSH), Southern Highlands Community Renewable Energy (SCORE), SH Landcare Network, Moss Vale Community Garden, XR Wingecarribee, Schools Strike 4 Climate, Battle for Berrima and Southern Highlands Parents for Climate Action. WinZero will nurture and build on the great foundations set by these organisations, and the original Climate Action group CANWin which began in 2006 – other relevant organisations are welcome to join us on this important journey.

If you would like more information on the above, please call Gaye White at 0438 323 331 email on info@winzero.com.au

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