Briefing- conversations guide

Renew Australia for All place-based organising

Renew Australia For All is a national movement backed by unions, social services, environment organisations, faith groups and industry working together to deliver a fairer, better and more secure future for all Australians. The Sydney Alliance is part of this movement and has an important role to play to make sure Sydneysiders are represented.

Every Australian should be able to live in a home that is safe and affordable to heat, cool and cook in, whether they rent, own their home, or live in a house, unit or an apartment. But right now, too many of us are doing it tough. We often have to choose between poor living conditions (such as mould),d high energy bills, or unsafe temperature inside our homes and a place we can afford to live.

This year through the Sydney Alliance renters' forums across Sydney, we have listened to hundreds of people renting. We found that one of the most common issues experienced by renters are the escalating challenges of living in homes that are too hot, too cold, have mould, or are not equipped with appliances such as air conditioners and fans. Renters across Sydney are also struggling with high energy bills and problems with energy providers. In the renters forums, a renter in South West Sydney shared ***"Only by staying inside my home in winter, I am spending more than 70% of my income in renter and energy bills"***

That's why ahead of the federal election and beyond, we will be organising in local places around Sydney. We will share stories about the cost of living, energy and climate to raise our voices to candidates who are seeking to win government. We will also be organising an assembly with the federal Minister for Energy and Climate Change, as well as other candidates, to seek commitments from all major parties for action to:

- Lower energy bills for everyone. For good.
- Build healthier, safer homes that are easier and cheaper to heat and cool, with better indoor air quality.
- Reduce climate impacts and air pollution.
- Enable more prioritised support for those doing it tough such as; low-income households, private renters, tenants in public and social housing, as well as First Nations, people with disabilities, multicultural, regional and remote communities.

What local organising looks like

We will be printing educational postcards that explain our asks and also have room for writing out our stories. We invite members of our communities and organisations to read, discuss and fill out these postcards as part of some different group activities.

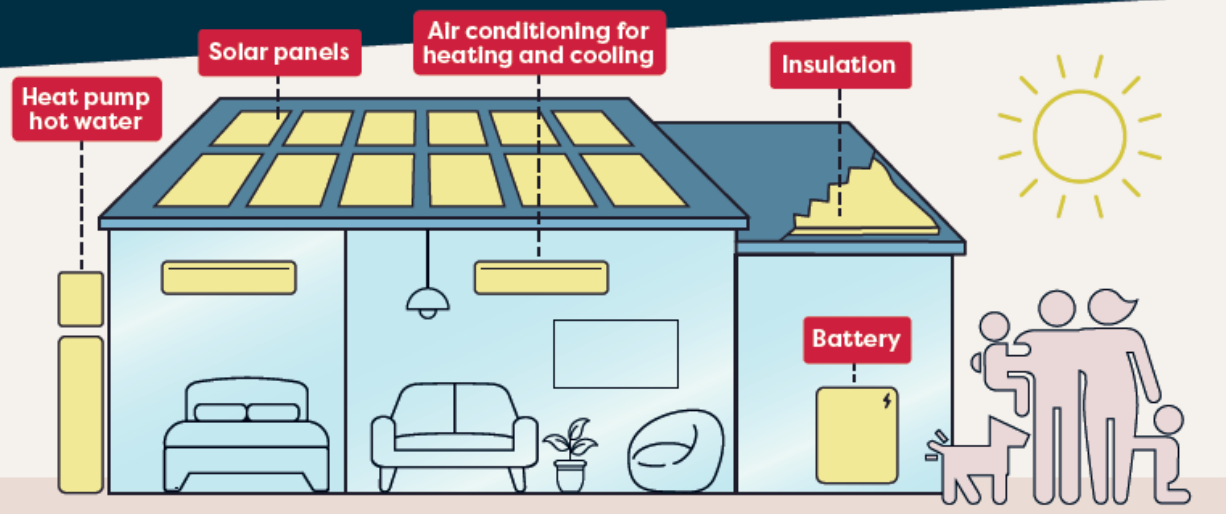
We will use these postcard activities in order to:

- **Foster Relationships locally:** building connections in the community through shared interest, actions and activities which means growing our local team to act for the common good.
- **Educate the community** about the tangible benefits of the energy savings measures that we are asking for from the federal government. Raise political awareness/ education on the power held in the local community.
- **Write stories** about our experiences with cost of energy bills, living conditions in poor insulated homes with mould or in serious need of repairs, challenges accessing energy rebates, challenges negotiating with energy providers, stories of climate disasters and extreme weather. These stories written in the postcards can be dropped off at local candidates and MPs offices in local areas to showcase the need to act.
- **Build on our turnout strategy for the Sydney Alliance Assembly.** Postcards can also be used to write a personalised invitation to someone who may benefit from our asks or attending a **Sydney Alliance assembly in Parramatta on the 13th of March 2025**. We know that one of the best ways to bring turnout is with relational and personalised invitations.

Renew AUSTRALIA FOR ALL

GREATER SYDNEY HOUSEHOLDS COULD SAVE UP TO $3,397* A YEAR

with a heatproof, solar and electric home.



Renew AUSTRALIA FOR ALL

Flip over to find out how

Ask your political leaders to deliver those savings now

Your message:

* Springmount Advisory, Energy Bill Savings Plan - Household Upgrades Benefit Analysis.

STAMP

To:

From:

Sydney ALLIANCE

Renew AUSTRALIA FOR ALL

Where and when these postcard activities are going to happen? 🗓️

Throughout the months of January to March. These are the following activities suggested:

- **Meeting the community where they already met.** If your organisation or your community have already an event or meeting planned during these months, our Sydney Alliance team can join these events and have a short session to write postcards- for example, this could be staff meetings or faith gatherings. This will require a minimum 20 minutes.

Suggested agenda and script

Section	**Key messages**
Introduction of yourself *2 mins*	- Share your name/organisation, where you live and if you have any connection with the place or the organisation
A relevant story from your experience or anyone you care about *3 mins*	Potential angles: ● *A home that is too hot and is very expensive/impossible to cool down and any additional impacts (too expensive, dangerous for health reasons, etc)* ● *A home that is too cold and expensive/impossible to use heat and any impact from that* ● *A home that has mould when it rains and risks of getting a respiratory illness* ● *Someone that you know has been able to get access to solar panels and is getting cheaper energy bills meaning they do not worry about using aircon or heater.* ● *The energy system is too complicated and not accessible for everyone, ex. CALD communities who don't not the benefits of renewable energy* ● *Any experience with extreme weather (heat, floods, bushfires) and the impact of climate change on you.*
Explaining the postcard *6 mins*	Access to affordable renewable energy and better energy standards mandating amenities such as built- in air conditioning or ceiling fans, heat pump hot water, insulation and appliances will have tangible benefits on our lives **(see the frontside of the postcard)**. With these things in our homes, we would experience financial savings and increased comfort in our homes while doing good for our environment and climate. Whether living in social housing, renting or on low- income, these money savings should be for everyone. The Federal Government can support homeowners and landlords on low incomes who don't have the money to make these upgrades. Politicians are paying attention to this matter and with the upcoming election, they are more likely to listen.

Encouraging and sharing the postcard for people to write a message. 7 mins	Are you willing to write to your local Federal Election candidates asking them, if they are elected, to take action on these measures.Or, are you willing to write a story that reflects the need for this? **For example:** if you are a renter or know one, you can share how difficult it is to cool and keep warm some homes, about the health impacts of mold, or expensive energy bills. Our organisation is partnering with the Sydney Alliance and other organisations across the country to write these postcards. Assistant organisers will help us to deliver these postcards that you write to the local candidates' offices. You may want to tailor your message based on the info provided. (Assistant organisers will share key information about local candidates) **Invite to write a postcard to each candidate**
Invitation to Assembly and pick up postcards *2 mins*	In addition to this, the Sydney Alliance is preparing a large assembly with over 1000 people in Westmead Thursday 23th March with the Minister for Energy and Climate Change.We will ask him in front of all these people to commit to take action. We will be also asking for other commitments on housing, energy and climate. Would you be interested to receive more info about this event?- Add your number in this template (provided by an Assistant organiser) and we will send you a text with the info. Well done for taking action for the common good!