

## Climate Futures Bill 2007

### Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

#### Overview of Bill

The objects of this Bill are as follows:

- (a) to prohibit the expansion of the coal industry,
- (b) to prohibit the development of new coal-fired power stations or the expansion of existing coal-fired power stations,
- (c) to fast track the development of a renewable energy industry,
- (d) to increase renewable energy targets,
- (e) to ensure that workers and communities affected by a declining coal industry will have access to retraining, employment and financial assistance.

#### Outline of provisions

**Clause 1** sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

**Clause 2** provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent to the proposed Act.

**Clause 3** sets out the objects (as described in the Overview above) of the proposed Act.

**Clause 4** defines certain words and expressions used in the proposed Act and contains other interpretative provisions for the purposes of the proposed Act.

**Clause 5** expressly prohibits the carrying out of certain development in connection with the coal industry. Development that will be prohibited under the proposed section includes establishing new coal mines, expanding existing coal mines, establishing new coal-fired power stations, expanding the capacity of (or extending the operational life of) existing coal-fired power stations and expanding coal export terminals. Planning approval (including approval under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* or development consent under Part 4 of that Act) cannot be given for any development that is prohibited under the proposed section.

**Clause 6** revokes the planning approval given for 3 specific forms of development, namely the expansion of the Kooragang Coal Terminal, the construction of the Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group Coal Export Terminal, Kooragang Island and the establishment of the Anvil Hill coal mine.

**Clause 7** requires the Government of NSW to implement measures to achieve a target of 20% renewable electricity consumption by 2012 and 50% renewable electricity consumption by 2020. **Renewable electricity** is defined in the proposed Act as electricity that is generated from renewable energy sources.

**Clause 8** states that it is Parliament's intention that the Government of NSW will provide appropriate financial assistance to workers and communities that will be adversely affected by a declining coal industry.