

**Submission
No 15**

SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW

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I strongly support a transition away from coal in the Hunter Valley and for Australia as a whole. The environmental damage mining causes is obvious and comes at great cost to the health of people and to other businesses and industries such as agriculture, wineries, horsestuds, tourism to name a few. The longer term impacts of burning the coal affects the earth on a global scale and it is imperative that net zero carbon emissions are achieved. Australia as the biggest per person emitter in the past and present has a big obligation to lead in building a sustainable future.

The world is rapidly changing and many jobs have been lost due to new technologies and cheaper labour elsewhere (e.g. textile and car industries; the end of BHP in Newcastle). In that sense, the jobs lost in mining are no different, and proportionally less than those lost in other sectors. It is inevitable and a gradual phasing out with retraining and creation of alternate job opportunities will make the transition less painful than what has happened historically.

I hope that enough of the huge profits made by the mines have been retained to allow high quality rehabilitation to occur and we will not be left with a severely degraded and toxic landscape.

The thought of all the extra water being available for better use also lifts my heart.

I support the Hunter Renewal Roadmap and its demands for:

- A community-driven process that builds on the Hunter region's strengths and has strong local participation embedded in the process.
- New well-paid and secure jobs for workers affected by mining downturns.
- A \$2 billion fund dedicated to coal mining regions to help us plan and prepare.
- A Hunter Diversification Taskforce led by locals from the community, unions and business to coordinate planning.
- A Hunter Regional Diversification Plan building on our strengths and bringing development of industry, labour-intensive projects and education, training and technology hubs.
- Better laws for rehabilitation of mines and power stations, boosting the jobs available now and into the future.

Yours sincerely,
Claudia Koller

