

**Submission  
No 19**

## **SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW**

**Name:** Ms Dianne Montague

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Dianne Montague  
[REDACTED]

Dear Committee,

This submission is for the Sustainability of Energy Supply and Resources in NSW.

I live in Gloucester in the Upper Hunter. Recently, we won the Land & Environment Court case to stop the construction of an open cut coal mine. This mine was refused by the Dept of Planning & the PAC.

80 percent of the shire supported this decision. However the question of how we sustain our town with employment is unanswered. We want clean, green, sustainable industries to boost employment & encourage new families into the area.

I am on the committee of Energise Gloucester, a Community Energy group. We have completed one project of erecting panels on the Neighbourhood Centre & have plans for a solar farm.

Supporting groups like ours would be a step forward to achieving our goals for the town.

The people of NSW are desperate for leadership on creating an energy policy. We are already experiencing the impacts of climate change. The last three summers in Gloucester have been exceedingly hot and incredibly dry. We are in a drought. This will get worse. We all need to act now and Government needs to lead the way. Time is running out.

These are my personal comments and I endorse the comments below from Lock The Gate.

Regional communities are looking for long-term support to pursue emerging economic opportunities, like renewable energy.

I'd like to see detailed regional planning, driven by communities, and strong public investment to seize new opportunities and prepare our economies for the long-term.

I don't want to see NSW open up coal seam gasfields or pursue new coal mines in our best farming country. Mining is polluting our air and draining our water at an alarming rate.

In regional areas we are already dealing with the impacts of climate change in the form of more extreme heatwaves, droughts and bushfires.

NSW needs to choose a new path that is focussed on preparing us for the future and which ensures that regional areas are at the forefront of emerging economic opportunities in renewables, agriculture and manufacturing.

I note that globally many of the customers the NSW supplies coal to are already shifting to renewable energy, and that creates substantial uncertainty for the coal mining industry here. Four power stations here are also scheduled to close down over the two decades.

Regional communities should not be subject to economic shocks and negative impacts from changing markets and a failure by our governments to lead and to plan.

We need to plan now to prepare for these changes, and to ensure that there is support for workers and a strong plan for new industries and new opportunities.

Please back substantial public investment into our regions and community-driven diversification plans, especially in the Hunter Valley, and fast-track plans for renewable energy and storage to prepare us for the long-term.