

**Submission
No 20**

SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW

Name: Ms Stephanie Britton

Date Received: 15 August 2019

My name is Stephanie Britton of [REDACTED]

Dear Committee,

Please accept this submission on the Inquiry into the Sustainability of Energy Supply and Resources in NSW.

I am retired, and have a son and grandchild in the family here. Both my son and myself installed solar panels on our dwellings, which reduce our impact on the grid quite a lot, but we are all very conscious of the fact that many people cannot afford panels and are reliant on the grid. Individuals in Byron Bay have been proactive and entrepreneurial in setting up the renewables power company Enova, but for this company to expand and thrive we need more certainty in the NSW energy sector, and a consistent policy to urgently boost access to renewable power for all residents in the state. 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.

Major energy changes are underway globally, and these are beginning to be felt in Australia as well. But the lack of govt action is very frightening for our future.

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

NSW must NOT open up coal seam gasfields or pursue new coal mines in farming country. Mining is polluting our air and draining our water at an alarming rate.

We are already dealing with the impacts of climate change in this area in the form of more extreme heatwaves, droughts, floods 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.

Many of the global customers for NSW coal are already shifting to renewable energy, creating major uncertainty for the coal mining industry here. Four power stations here are also scheduled to close down over the two decades.

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

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

Sincerely

Stephanie Britton

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