

**Submission
No 26**

SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW

Name: Mr Neil Bryant

Date Received: 16 August 2019

From: Neil Bryant

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Dear Committee,

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

I am writing to acknowledge that major energy changes are underway globally, and these are beginning to be felt in Australia as well.

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.

Just one example would be the growing of hemp for use in industries requiring fibre, oils & replacement of plastic based products. This crop can be harvested multiple times per season, requires no pesticides & minimal irrigation. It was used 100 years ago by Henry Ford to produce panels for his automobile production. I feel it is vastly more useful than sugar & the northern rivers climate is very amenable to its growth.

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.

Regards & thank you.

Neil Bryant

Sent from my iPhone