

**Submission
No 28**

SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 16 August 2019

Partially
Confidential

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Committee,

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

I want to propose that governments, regions and local communities work together on developing clean, sustainable futures for their communities. I don't understand why governments seem to be stuck on doing what developers and big mining companies want, rather than thinking creatively, about what is in the long term best interests of particular regions.

I grew up and spent half of my life in Newcastle and the Hunter Valley. I am now in my 70s and from what I have witnessed, Newcastle has developed and is still growing because when BHP began to pull out of the region, the community and business groups got together, with governments, to find new industries and employment for the city. They have continued to do that, so Newcastle is no longer the 'dirty city' that was its former reputation.

The Hunter Valley, which in my years was a beautiful place where there was adequate employment in rural industries, is now a mess of disgusting, dirty coal mines. We don't need more mines and we definitely don't need coal seam gas fields that destroy our environment, for short term gain.

The whole world is moving away from fossil fuels and regional communities need and want to be creative about what their future holds. We can be sure governments won't hold the coal miners to account about cleaning up the mess they have made. It is almost always left to the taxpayer to clean up the mess. Why make more pollution and more destruction of our natural resources like soil and water unnecessarily.

Regional communities are looking for long-term support to pursue emerging economic opportunities, like renewable energy. We want to see good planning, led by the regions themselves with support as they need it, to prepare for themselves long term sustainable economic futures.

Climate change is impacting the rural and regional areas particularly with the heatwaves, bushfires and droughts. They are more aware of the need for sustainable policies than the politicians who come from the city. They need to be supported to find good long term solutions, rather than have city based committees, politicians and public servants push a future on them which they don't want.

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. We need to plan for the new world, not try to prop up the old.

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.

[REDACTED]