

**Submission
No 34**

SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW

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Date Received: 23 August 2019

Hugh and Pauline Burton



Dear Committee,

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

I am cognisant of research that has been conducted by the C.S.I.R.O. in regards to human induced climate change. We are actually currently at the tipping point for dramatic and irreversible consequences. Thus we need to respond with urgency and impact.

By shifting to decentralisation of a raft of areas we can significantly improve our impact: power generation is a simple and obvious one as it significantly reduces losses across the grid. Fortunately we have the opportunity to build significant regional jobs by building infrastructure designed to exploit our abundant solar and wind energy to feed high energy consumption industries such as liquid hydrogen, aluminium smelter, and a vast array of other businesses.

Not only do we need to reduce our CO2 production but we need to intensify carbon capture. The most effective current method is to plant trees. Thus we need vastly expanded schemes to make it economically viable and physically possible for land holders to become carbon capture shepherds.

Regional communities would benefit from grants/rebates for the installation of solar batteries. This would reduce local voltage fluctuations and reduce the need to increase the capacity of the evening generation and the distribution network. This would also provide significant job opportunities.

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.

Hugh & Pauline Burton
Sent from my iPhone