

**Submission  
No 38**

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

**Name:** Mr Harry Johnson

**Date Received:** 16 August 2019

Harry Johnson,



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

I am in my mid seventies and have very young grandchildren, who like all the plant and animal species our world depends on for survival, do not have a vote in their future.

I do not want to have to say to my grandchildren, this is your world now, you can have the ruins. You shouldn't have to attend the next children's climate emergency strike on 20th September and following climate emergency strikes until those who make vital decisions start to take action as if there is a tomorrow.

Even in Australia, electric cars will be the way to go, so how long before we start to build many large solar farms along regional travel routes to provide renewable energy where it is needed and employment where it is also urgently needed?

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. 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.

All the best in the future you choose for those you cherish.

I hope you and those you love decide to attend the next childrens' climate emergency strike on Fri 20 September.

Yours sincerely,  
Harry Johnson.