

**Submission
No 41**

SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW

Organisation: WYNERGY

Date Received: 17 August 2019

Dear Committee,

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

WYNERGY is a solar farm construction company, using Agrivoltaic principles to build solar farms that share and enhance soils with graziers. Studies on Agrivoltaic solar farms in the USA have shown dramatic increases in soil moisture (>300% increase) and fodder yield (>90% increase). The soil under these solar farms (where the arrays are elevated and spaced) sequesters more carbon as it builds humus when grazed in a holistic fashion. Our solar farms deliver clean energy - but also drought proof the farmer/landholder and provide regional areas economic benefits through construction, operation and maintenance jobs. See more here: <https://wynergy.com.au/>

Our solar farms will also be linked to hydrogen production and storage - providing outstanding export earnings potential as the world shifts to clean energy over the coming decade or 2.

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.

Kind Regards,
Ben Wynn
Managing Director - WYNERGY Pty Ltd

