

**Submission
No 44**

SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW

Name: Ms Diane O'Mara

Date Received: 21 August 2019

Dear Committee,

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

I live in a small rural town in the Central West of NSW, that has a large population of coalminers, working the Moolarben, Ulan and Wilpinjong Coal Mines. The change from a rural based economy to that of a mining town has incurred many negative impacts affecting the social fabric of our society and our environment. With the world-wide push for renewable energies we are slowly seeing new wind and solar farms in our midst.

I see these as the way of the future.

. Regional communities like my own 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. This approach will ultimately damage our food and water security 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. We are already experiencing the worst drought in recorded history, and there is no decent rain predicted for months.

NSW needs to choose a new path that is focused 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to give my input,

Yours sincerely

Diane O'Mara

