

**Submission  
No 67**

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

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A few points to consider:

1. Mining of metallurgical coal or coal for cement production should be considered separately to thermal coal for power as there is no alternative for the former two uses.

2. It would be more sensible to consider reducing the market than to control the supply by closing or not commencing mines - if there is no market, nobody will mine coal. If Australia does not fill market needs overseas the coal will be sourced elsewhere (likely with poorer quality coal). The benefit to climate change would be zero or worse, unless Australia's actions had an effect on the price of coal forcing the market to use less. Reducing the market locally (we are a very wasteful society) would prove unpopular & be difficult politically but is morally better than expecting export markets to reduce their usage. Assisting other nations to change to alternative power sources could be considered via foreign aid (additional to current levels) which would give us some moral justification for us trying to keep their usage low.

3. I do not believe a "renewables industry" would provide anything like the level of employment of the mining industry should the latter be lost. There may be a reasonable level during the construction phase but very low in operation. Solar power technology may give rise to some industrial expansion, but wind power essentially derives from generators mounted on poles, hardly new technology, with the bulk of the equipment most likely to be supplied from overseas.

4. A reduced mining industry will result in large financial losses to Australia in export income & in tax & royalties to Government. This may be a price we have to pay to reduce the effects of climate change but not if there is no benefit from such a sacrifice.