

**Submission
No 75**

SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW

Name: Ms Rosemary Vass

Date Received: 5 September 2019

Please accept this submission to the Inquiry into Energy Supply and Sustainability in NSW.

Thanks for the opportunity to submit to this inquiry.

I live on a property near Coonabarabran in the North West of our state and our region wants the opportunities that renewable energy and diversification can bring.

It's crucial that the community is given the opportunity to lead the changes we need for our region, with strong public investment and policy support from the government.

I'd like the Committee to hold a public hearing for this inquiry in our region.

I'm concerned because mining and CSG is putting our water resources at risk. The current drought shows just how reliant on underground water our farms and communities are. While I have rainwater tanks the reality is that where I live I have no other dependable source of water other than my bore water. Without it my property would be worthless and unlivable. Current coal developments and proposed coal seam gas projects put a completely unsustainable impost on our water resources and are a measurable risk. For example:

The Maules Creek coal mine has been buying up ground water and paying triple what local farmers can afford, making the situation even worse for families already facing enormous drought pressure.

Santos has already polluted water on a number of occasions as part of the Narrabri CSG project, and if approved, the 850 well production project would put the recharge zone for the Great Artesian Basin at risk and produce vast amounts of toxic salt waste.

I want clean and affordable renewable energy and job opportunities for our region that doesn't sacrifice our rural communities, groundwater and public health.

I would like to see regional diversification plans developed to support our communities to plan for new industries and build on existing strengths, mapping out a pathway to harness renewable energy opportunities for the long-term.

Expert modelling of renewable potential in north-west NSW has found we could produce 622MW of electricity from solar power, exporting energy to the national electricity market and creating 500 permanent local jobs by 2030. These Renewable developments can give huge benefit without the impact on our water or land that mining does now and will impact more in the future.

That's the future I want for my region - not more damaging coal mines and new gasfields that would put our water at risk and make things even worse for our communities who are already faced with the dire reality of severe drought and a changing climate.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Rosemary Vass

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