

**Submission
No 84**

SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW

Name: Ms Nicole Hunter

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

I live in Coonabarabran Nth West NSW . 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. Our town has run out of water! With emergency sinking of bores, our town has been on level 5- 6 water restrictions for a year with no rain in sight. It is dreadful to consider risking our underground water (which most of Our community now rely on) for short term projects.

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.

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
Nicole Hunter