

**Submission
No 90**

SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW

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To whom it may concern

My name is Gwyn Hooper and I live at [REDACTED], and I should like to make a submission to the 'sustainability of energy supply and resources in NSW'.

I should like to state that I am not a member of any Political Party or affiliated to one. I also receive no financial or any other benefit from any company involved with the production of fossil fuels. Unlike the two major Political Parties in NSW! I am retired and am submitting my own views without fear or favour from any source.

POWER GENERATION

I think it is very important that when planning for the future the lessons of the past should be the basis of moving forward.

If we don't see the errors of the past and act on them we will only repeat them.

It's widely accepted that we are living in an age of climate change. Science has proved this and our own observations enforce that view.

The burning of fossil fuels is generally accepted as being a major factor in this climate change.

Therefore it is my view that the future of sustainable energy production should be targeted with "genuine" renewables. A matter that I will come to later.

The burning of fossil fuels has NO place in the future of sustainable energy production in the State. Coal fired and gas fired energy production should be phased out as soon as is possible.

This is a course of action that is being pursued worldwide due to the concerns of climate change.

These plants should be replaced with wind, solar, wave technology, batteries, pumped hydro, and hydrogen power.

We are all aware that the sun does not generate power at night and the wind does not always blow so there is a need for secure backup for these types of generation. Pumped hydro is one option but it's my view that investing in hydrogen production is the way of the future.

The production of hydrogen can be produced with wind and solar energy and the hydrogen can be then used as a secure power supply for electricity, used to power vehicles and if produced in enough quantities be exported overseas. Large hydrogen production facilities should be established with their own wind and solar farms, close to the coast, ports, and existing power generation plants that can be converted to run on hydrogen. These facilities would therefore be directly connected to the existing power grid, and have easy access for exporting the production in Australia and overseas. A win win solution for the country in providing a sustainable carbon free power source, and overseas export income.

Small outback communities should be encouraged to develop their own sustainable, renewable power sources and with battery backup should be encouraged to go off grid. Solar, wind and batteries. Government assistance should be provided for this.

There should be an addition made to the BASIX requirements that currently exist for all new homes. It should be mandatory that every new home that is built should include solar panels and if possible with battery storage thus making them self sufficient for their energy needs. Water storage and insulation was made mandatory so why not solar power? The cost of solar

installation is always cheaper when a home is being constructed and the extra cost would be a small percentage of the overall cost of the new home. Doing this would also cut down any extra demand of the increase in population and housing would bring to the existing grid. There would obviously be employment opportunities as well.

The benefits of these proposals would be in sustainable long term employment in new wind, solar, pumped hydro, and hydrogen production plants. Existing employment in fossil fuel power station would be protected by conversion to hydrogen.

There would be a massive infrastructure spend by both public and private sectors resulting in thousands of new jobs. A strong sustainable basic infrastructure that would service the state for years to come. An infrastructure that would be "carbon neutral" providing a win for the environment.

In other words the future of power generation in the State has to be a renewable, carbon neutral, a sustainable generation for years to come.

This brings me back to an alarming development that has become evident in the area that I live. Two of the local sugar mills are being powered by an alleged "green, sustainable, environmentally friendly" source. However on closer inspection they are found to be powering the generating plant by burning 'wood chips' and other so called biomass products. The facts are that they are powering their plants with trees that have been cut down and chipped. This is the most insane form of power production that I have heard of. It's NOT green, NOT sustainable and is adding to and not reducing our carbon emissions. You need to burn six times as much wood chips as you do coal to produce the same amount of electricity! Trees are noted as a carbon sink. That is they capture and store our carbon emissions and stop them from adding to our climate change gases. Every time a tree is cut down we deplete the amount of carbon that is being captured. To claim that this is a sustainable renewable energy is insanity. If you plant a tree for each one you cut down it would take thirty years or more to grow to a state where it would store the same amount of carbon that was stored in the one you had cut down.

To compound this insanity the company concerned is obtaining carbon credits for doing this. In fact it is receiving Govt money to deplete our forests and harm our environment. This has to STOP! It's FRAUD in my mind. We are paying them to cut down our forests. Deplete the land and have a disastrous impact on the flora and fauna of our forests and deplete an important carbon sink! Makes no sense at all apart from a financial gain to the company involved. Urgent Government action is needed on this before this industry gets any more established.

WATER SECURITY

The criminal over extraction of water in the Murray Darling and associated river systems recently highlighted in the media coupled with the existing drought has really brought home to the general public the importance of water.

The alleged corrupt activities by some extractors and Officers of NSW Water is alarming.

There needs to be a complete restructure of the whole water sharing regime throughout the State. With an independent oversight organisation tasked with ensuring nothing like this ever happens again.

Our water is precious. Without it we cease to exist.

Water should be prioritised initially for domestic use, secondly for environmental health of the river systems, and finally for agricultural needs.

An independent review needs to be undertaken as to the viability of certain types of crops and farming practices throughout the entire State. Water hungry crops should be banned however lucrative. Any crop planted that causes or has the prospect of reducing water for domestic and environmental demands should be banned. Sustainable dry land farming methods should be utilised. A lot of this land is marginal agriculturally and only crop and livestock production that is suitable for the area should be allowed. Not water hungry financially rewarding crops. Money before water has to stop.

All water licences should be reviewed and rescinded if the water is being used for non water sustainable crops with NO recompense. Farmers who wish to farm using irrigation have a responsibility to domestic and environmental demands before their bank balance. No exceptions.

Our rivers and groundwater throughout the State should be protected. Both sources are essential for our existence, and are interconnected.

Any action whatsoever that compromises either water source has to be banned.

This is no more evident than in the CSG field. Fracking for CSG should never be entertained due to the threat of water contamination of the groundwater and its impact on farmers and domestic use. FRACKING TO BE BANNED STATEWIDE no ifs or buts! The burning of fossil fuels has been discussed previously.

Another misuse of our groundwater is the extraction for the bottled water industry. An industry that provides nothing to the community, and only depletes our groundwater and pollutes the environment with plastic bottles.

In the Tweed Shire we have the ridiculous situation of being drought declared at the same time as allowing several companies to extract water to put in plastic bottles. To make things worse some of this water is being exported. Exporting our water is bad enough but whilst we are in drought is incomprehensible. There should be a Statewide ban on water extraction for the bottled water industry and the current operators should be given a sunset clause in their licence to cease operations within six years. Our water supply should not be compromised for the benefit of the financial gain of a few individuals. It is our water, NOT theirs to sell! Currently bottled water is being sold at a price more than petrol! The licence fee needs to reflect this.

Therefore it is my submission to you that only sustainable , environmentally safe power should be considered for our future energy needs.

The State Government along with the private sector should embark on a massive infrastructure program to build wind and solar farms on land or at sea for direct power production. Should as soon as possible build hydrogen production facilities for domestic and export consumption. Encourage solar power options for homeowners and businesses with possible subsidies.

All of these proposals would generate thousands of jobs directly and indirectly sometimes in areas where there is great need.

Should ban the misuse and exploitation of our water and protect it for future generations.

Should embark on a meaningful plan to plant trees to create forests of diverse species bringing employment to those areas, increasing carbon capture , protecting waterways and helping to sustain our diverse flora and fauna.

We need to acknowledge that we have failed in the past and we need to put it right now.
Before it's too late.
Learn from our mistakes.

Gwyn Hooper

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