

**Submission
No 91**

SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW

Name: Ms Beverley Atkinson

Date Received: 9 September 2019

Submission to the Environment and Planning Committee of the NSW Parliament.

To the: **INQUIRY INTO SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES.**

From: Beverley F. Atkinson, of: [REDACTED] date: 9.9.2019

I live in the Upper Hunter, in the upper end of the valley. We can see the two main Power Stations from Scone's higher grounds, and our winds come mostly from West or from the south where the power stations are.

There is much data about air quality along the Hunter Valleys, it says much, and I won't repeat it.

We are threatened with 3 more coal mines planning to extend towards us here, in the face of the critical situation that life on Earth is now in. We find our State Government colluding with the coal advance, and with the coal lobbyists, despite the fact that coal mining employs far fewer than could be healthily employed in sustainable energy production and in its installation, manufacture, maintenance, commissioning, management, transportation, and business.

The ipc decisions on mining (and also development), ignoring science, data and evidence, reflect mainly the fear on the part of the public "service" that it may lose its job and salary if it speaks or acts according to the truth. This systemic betrayal of the paying public gives us no satisfaction to discover, nor to report. It is a source of sickness and disgust.

Regarding Coal Resources and the Economy:

There is a set of statistics hidden from both the cowed Governmentees, and from the brave fighters for a clean world. Neither faction seems to have noticed its absence.

This statistic set is maybe known, but not allowed out by the Coal Miners. It is an essential point in our collective recovery from their attack on our diminishing, tenuous life.

It can be expressed simply as "Where did they come from?" What jobs, what locations?

The recovery : it is "Send them back where they came from." Normalise the economy.

*This isn't the FIRST 'transition'... it is the SECOND. The FIRST was when they left to go to the mines. Coal miners don't arrive under cabbages. They have jobs to go back to. Skills to resume.

*It is entirely false propaganda, the idea of masses of sad miners with "no training and no industries to service"... the supposed need to raise up industries and training from a vacuum. Nonsense.

The vital, missing STATISTIC SET is outlined here:

A) what **smallish** sector of the mine force was specifically mine trained; and what fields can that training be used in, given existing and possible industry and business near where they live?

B) **the others**: what jobs, trades, professions, did they leave to drive trucks? (Go get us more money, darling.)? What teaching of TAFE, what monitoring of Apprentices, did they leave.. what training of employees and work-experience people, along with leaving those jobs?

C) **Where** did they leave, with or without families; where do they commute from, for this money?

D) **Where and how is their beautiful money spent?** Does it truly benefit either them or the economy? Not going by the miserable empty mining towns.. the waste involved in all the commuting and moving, and the huge, pointless, isolating homes on the fringes.. the state of the societies.

E) How do the customers fare, abandoned for more money? What services are impoverished? Yes, this is **the 'skills shortage'** which is now bemoaned amid the ruins of the defunded TAFE. We need them back; our best builders, plumbers, teachers, piano tuners, the lot. Revive the economy. I personally know of a great number of good working people who 'left for the mines'.. and left a gap.

F) How many can be rescued, even now, of **the talented kids hunted and poached in their own schools, before their final years at school and in their minority years, by calculating, predatory Mine Companies?** They come into schools, fool the kids, alienate them from school and parents, blind them with money. This is evil; a law is apparently needed to prevent this open crime.

G) How many workers have died in accidents after the shift, become ill, lost much more than the 'more money' was worth; and destroyed their family life by joining these mines. The mines don't publicise deaths, accidents... they just write fictions for the magazine "The Coal Face". They bribe local communities with small grants, and create a false romance. **What real cost to all involved.. including the public purse in paying for the human wreckage ongoing. What losses in debts, lawyers, moving from friends, wrecked family life, health problems and abandonment of good trained work. What a crash in mental health, seeing dying farms, lost towns, dead landscape.**

.....

Now, there may be those in Government who genuinely wish better for our society, as well as the prolonging of our evolved life on the Earth. If so, they will require Government to demand of the coal companies, statistics A to G, to be gathered and independently checked. Then used.

It will then be clear that sectors of the ailing community and economy can be revived, **not** by keeping the sickening coalmines going, but by bringing them to a natural close as soon as possible, *predictably releasing their people back to needed jobs, functions and healthy family life.*

That is the clear, harmless and cheap way of repairing the unhealthy, two level economy caused by the first 'transition' to coal... back into a healed, restored economy in the second 'transition'.

It is clear now that there is plenty of supplementary technology and capacity to replace the coal energy pattern. From the statistics A to G, it will be clearly good to plan liberation of the coal-mine workforce, providing skills and labour of healthy, happier people, to implement its progress.

Thankyou for the opportunity to submit to this Inquiry.

Sincerely,

Bev Atkinson,

B.Arch UNSW 1976

