

**Supplementary
Submission
No 108a**

SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW

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To Whom It May Concern

As a long-time resident of NSW I wish to register my concerns on the above. Climate change and the contribution of greenhouse gases are scientifically proven facts. The need for governments to act is paramount and urgent. Our dependence on fossil fuels must be reduced. We are lucky that alternative, sustainable sources of power are readily available in our country-namely, solar, wind and water. NSW should do everything in its power to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, coal mining, coal-generated power stations, and the burning of wood chips to produce power.

We must protect our forests and trees through legislation. Trees are a vital source of carbon storage, and mature trees store 30 times the amount of carbon compared to new plantings. Not to mention the devastating effects of deforestation on our wildlife. Would you like your grandchildren to inherit an Australia where the only living koalas are in zoos?

We must protect our water. I am sure you are aware of the effects of poor water management and over-reliance on water hungry-crops, such as cotton, on the Murray River. In our state, people are extracting ground water for bottling. This practice, which depletes our underground water supply contributes hugely to the pollution of land and sea with plastic. I assume you know people are now ingesting plastic with their seafood, and that sea turtles are dying because the plastic they ingest keeps them afloat and prevents them from diving for food. Like koalas, many types of turtles are now on the endangered species list.

Finally, we urgently need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We have to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels to emit less carbon into the atmosphere. I recently heard that the warming of the oceans must be stopped before the sea temperature rises another 1 and 1/2 percent. It is entirely possible that our planet could become uninhabitable for humans!

We need to stop producing coal. I know this can't happen overnight but it must be a long term goal. We can start by not granting licences for new coal mines. Jobs and income can be created by developing the infrastructure and resources required to produce and supply energy through renewable, sustainable means. We already have means to produce power from wind, sun and water. The state could provide legislation, subsidies and grants to promote the use of these alternative sources of power, and the development of more sustainable power sources (such as hydrogen). Eg, mandate new homes and buildings include solar power and rain water catchment, subsidise the instalment of same in existing buildings; provide fast charging stations (as the NRMA is doing) for electric cars, subsidise the purchase of same, as in California; ban ground water extraction for bottling and phase out existing licenses, same for coal seam gas; legislate to protect our trees and forests and to protect habitat for our endangered species. Develop wind farms and hydro electric plants instead of coal fired electricity generation. Provide grants for research and development in sustainable energy supply. Developing our capacity for sustainable power generation can provide jobs and income where these are lost due to reducing our use of fossil fuels.

I haven't provided a lot of sources and statistics as I assume (and sincerely hope) you are familiar with the facts around these issues. I mainly want you to be aware that I, and many other NSW residents, feel strongly about these issues and will support government initiatives to protect our environment and create a sustainable, renewable energy supply for NSW.

Sincerely yours

Marilyn Lebeter





Sent from my iPad