

**Submission
No 131**

SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW

Name: Ms Pamela Seccombe

Date Received: 13 September 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I have lived in the Upper Hunter Valley for almost 25 years - running my own consulting business from my 40 acre farm on the Pages River and more recently on 2 acre block on Warlands Creek in Blandford. During this time I have witnessed first hand the impact of our obsession with coal generated power and our addiction to short term gain made from coal sales to overseas customers.

While I understand the sale of coal has bolstered our economy nationally and has provided employment in the Hunter, the financial benefits cannot be viewed in isolation. The impact on air quality, water and the environment more generally also needs to be taken into account, particularly as the rest of the world embraces its responsibilities as a global citizen and moves to renewal energy sources - which we stubbornly refuse to do.

So even if the government is unable or unwilling to proactively move to alternative power sources, it will be forced to make changes as a) coal resources deplete and b) current coal customers stop buying coal as they move more and more to renewals.

Hence I support the Hunter Renewal Roadmap and its demands for:

- A community-driven process that builds on the Hunter region's strengths and has strong local participation embedded in the process.
- New well-paid and secure jobs for workers affected by mining downturns.
- A \$2 billion fund dedicated to coal mining regions to help us plan and prepare.
- A Hunter Diversification Taskforce led by locals from the community, unions and business to coordinate planning.
- A Hunter Regional Diversification Plan building on our strengths and bringing development of industry, labour-intensive projects and education, training and technology hubs.
- Better laws for rehabilitation of mines and power stations, boosting the jobs available now and into the future.

I am not alone in my views and ask the committee to hold public hearings in coal mining regions like the Hunter to give us the people a voice.

Yours sincerely,
Pamela Seccombe

