

**Submission
No 148**

SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW

Organisation: Southcoast Health and Sustainability Alliance

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- NSW needs a renewables target - 50% by 2030. NSW is falling well short of its plan for net-zero emissions from its power sector by 2050.
- To be on track NSW would need renewables to grow to around 46 per cent of its overall electricity consumption by 2030, but is currently on track to 28 per cent based on expected rooftop solar growth and committed and contracted wind and solar farms. To bridge the gap it requires close to an additional 5,000MW of new renewable energy project commitments by 2030.
- NSW government needs to give more support to household and business roof top solar - low interest loans are completely inadequate. We need rebates and grants for small business and households to install rooftop solar.
- NSW government needs to invest in battery storage like SA, Victoria and QLD
- Change the regulatory environment to make it much easier and cheaper for communities to set up large scale solar and wind farms. For example it costs tens of thousands of dollars for the networks to say if the grid can handle the installation.
- Renewable energy provides farmers with a critical source of additional income and can enhance regional and remote communities through the provision of employment in construction and maintenance of solar and/or wind farms and pumped hydro
- Need a minimum feed in tariff of 11c per kWh
- Provide adequate funding to TAFE to train more solar and wind farm installers and maintenance staff.
- Follow the examples of the ACT, and Victoria and use reverse auctions to accelerate the install of large scale renewables.
- 7GW of large-scale renewables by 2030, with 6GW delivered through reverse auctions and 1GW through a new state-owned corporation.
- The truth is New South Wales has missed out on the jobs, investment and business opportunities that flow from a strong smart energy economy. It is simply not good enough that only 13 per cent of NSW's energy comes from renewable sources, and only 6 per cent of the NSW Government's own electricity comes from renewables.

- NSW Government should identify constrained or congested grid areas which impede installation of new renewable energy sources, and fund remedial work to allow connection of renewables in these areas.
- NSW Government should support creation, testing and improvement of digital technology monitoring and control systems which can be used to facilitate better integration of renewables into the existing grid system. This could also facilitate creation of “virtual batteries” through integrating and aggregating smaller scale renewable supplies.
- NSW Government should treble current funding levels for support of grants to community-generated projects which can enhance uptake of renewables and energy efficiency. Suitable projects would include renewably powered EV charging points and solar powered “shade sheds” in suitable areas of rural and regional NSW.