

**Submission  
No 155**

## **SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW**

**Name:** Ms Wendy White

**Date Received:** 14 September 2019

## Inquiry into the Sustainability of Energy Supply and Resources in NSW

To the Environment and Planning Committee,

I am a resident in the Hunter Region of NSW and have been, for some time, concerned about the reliance on coal in my region. Reasons for my concern are many. As the Hunter has been the leading region for coal mining for many years I note the stress on the valley in terms of health due to poor air quality in numerous areas and the amount of water needed for coal mines in increasingly dry spells due to climate change. In addition there are numerous communities that have ceased to exist due to the proximity of coal mines and the deleterious effect of coal mines on agriculture and the social fabric of the community.

There seems to be no doubt that a change to renewable energy would lead to vastly improved outcomes for the environment, health and, if managed well the economy.

There are changes in global markets for coal as many countries are shifting to using renewable sources of energy. NSW will fall behind other economies if it does not start the change to solar and wind energy. The shift should be gradual and well planned with retraining of those currently employed in coal and gas industries. There would be employment for many with a transition to renewable energy but there would need to be government support for workers transitioning.

The Hunter has established strengths in agriculture wine/tourism and manufacturing. Apart from industries created directly by transitioning to renewables, more jobs could be created building on those strengths in a cleaner, more healthy environment. People in the Hunter can see the need for a change away from fossil fuels to renewables but are realistic enough to know that planning and financial support from government are crucial elements for a successful transition.