

**Submission  
No 162**

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

**Name:** Mr Wayne Riley

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Dear Sir/ Madam

It is imperative, that we plan for the future, beyond mining in the Hunter Valley.

The current economy of NSW and the Hunter is heavily dependant upon mining and the associated businesses that support this Industry. As the push away from fossil fuels increases across the world, our economy is in danger of imploding and seeing a depression in Australia more debilitating than ever before.

It is extremely important that a task force is formed and implemented in the Hunter to expedite New Developments concepts that supports new forms of businesses opportunities. The Hunter has the capacity with its land resources, available power infrastructure and highly educated and skilled workforce, high standard of learning institutions, to take advantage of many types of industry opportunities.

The variation of new technologies across the developing world is only limited by our imagination.

We could encourage investment from already recognised International companies involved in high tech manufacture or other forms of manufacturing as the demand increases especially in the area of automated robotic plants that require skilled and specialist plants, as well as get more involved in medical, military/ defense, transportation, information technology, research and development.

Renewable energy is also an industry that has the capacity to grow exponentially. Besides the building of large alternative energy plants or farms, we could also get involved with the research and development and manufacture of these new technologies.

I believe Australia has the capacity to lead the developing world in many new and current technologies if given the support and opportunity to enter these exciting new areas of business having the capacity to hold up our economy for many years to come.

Australia doesn't currently produce our own fully manufactured automobile, motor bike either road or off road, or other commonly used technologies in demand. We must take a look across the world where these types of Industry

have value added to the economies of these countries, who don't rely on the resources industry. Look at countries in Europe like Italy that have Ducati and Fiat. Almost most developed nations have nationally recognised technologies.

Australia should pursue this with passion as I believe we can produce extremely high quality products without falling into the trap of producing substandard manufactured products like China, while at the same time being able to compete in the world market. The world will pay the right price for quality products.

Besides this area of economics Australia has the capacity to feed the world and produce high quality rural produce . The wine industry in Australia has shown this admirably and our beef and dairy industry is second to none. Our Horse breeding industry and animal husbandry industry is also second to none. While these industries are doing it very tough currently because of drought it has been a huge part of the past and future economic well being of Australia. It need assistance and protection, to see it flourish again, and we need to stop our farms going to foreign investment.

While we have depended on the resource industry in Australia for a long time, Its future is somewhat limited, and for the best part detrimental to our long term future along a number of very serious factors.

1. Water is the new gold. Mining and gas exploration are placing huge burdens on these resources and potentially could pollute them to the extent that it stagnates farming land for centuries, way beyond when the mines have gone.
2. Air Quality. The Hunter cannot sustain any further Open Cut mines as the air quality is now unacceptable and dangerous to the community. I advocate only underground mines provided they can be established away from farming land and known underground or above ground water resources.
3. The rosters implemented by mining companies are unsustainable and very detrimental to the health and wellbeing of the Hunter communities. These long twelve hour plus rosters were implanted in mining camps where workers were catered for, didn't travel and then flown home. Travel time is up to two hours now for as many as 9000 daily commuters into the Upper Hunter each day. There is no time left for sleep or family

commitments. Remembering these rosters were introduced to reduce employment by a huge twenty percent.

4. Roads and Infrastructure. The mines have placed enormous demands on these facilities rarely directly contributing to them. Traffic on our roads is very, very congested and little planning appears to have occurred to reduce this dangerous situation. Road infrastructure planning currently seems to lack any proper considerations. Town being bypassed that didn't want it, major rural roads works that have not been involved in major accidents or delays, while huge traffic delays leading up to the mines beyond Singleton are dangerous and causing tragedy weekly.

I support the concept of this inquiry and the setting up of an office in the Hunter to plan and see many new opportunities created by specialists in different fields to attract the best industries into the Hunter to see a long prosperous future.

It has the capacity to offer the development of major towns and new Cities, provided the very serious environmental factors are given appropriate and immediate consideration.

If a proper plan is designed now and implemented, we will see the Hunter strongly support the economy of NSW and Australia long into the future, beyond mining.

I look forward to see this new office become a reality in the Hunter.

Sincerely

Wayne Riley

