Submission No 205

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

Name: Mr Bruce McQueen

Date Received: 15 September 2019

To the Members of the Inquiry,

This submission is from a very concerned citizen who has for the past TWENTY YEARS closely followed the total lack of any real action by Australian governments to combat the Earth's rapidly changing climate.

Firstly, I note with dismay that four of the five defined terms of reference to be examined by this Inquiry focus on economic matters. Given that all truly independent energy economists state that the cost of producing renewable energy from wind and solar is now cheaper than continuing to burn fossil fuels, it is exasperating that the Inquiry is flogging the dead "economic" horse. Policies that encourage and facilitate the massive rollout of wind, solar and other non carbon pollution-producing renewables, coupled with large-scale battery storage, must be introduced IMMEDIATELY. And those policies implemented WITHOUT DELAY. No ifs, no buts.

All NSW coal-fired power plants should be closed NOW.

No further new or expanding coalmines can be allowed. Existing mines must be closed down and rehabilitated post haste.

The Santos Pilliga coal seam gas project must be terminated NOW. No further exploration or extraction of methane gas, with the attendant massive release of that potent greenhouse gas to the atmosphere, can be allowed in NSW.

All exploration for oil, either on land or off the coast of this State, must cease immediately. So called green hydrogen fuel for road transport must replace fossil fuels within a VERY SHORT timeframe.

Importantly, the utter madness of clearfelling forests for burning in cogeneration plants must stop NOW. No rational human being could ever accept that logging and denuding vast areas of NATURAL CARBON SINKS then burning the destroyed vegetation (in power plants that were originally supposed to burn only bagasse) to generate electricity is sustainable! Further it is complete lunacy to call this form of "cogeneration" renewable when it takes DECADES for a seedling to grow and replace a mature tree. Combined with the fact that recent scientific research tells us that burning wood in cogen operations releases around 50% MORE greenhouse pollutants than burning COAL. The two existing cogen plants here on the NSW North Coast must be either restricted to only burning bagasse or shut down completely.

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Regards,

Bruce McQueen.