

**Supplementary
Submission
No 96a**

SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW

Name: The Hon Mark Latham

Date Received: 6 May 2020

**Supplementary Submission to the NSW Legislative Assembly
Committee on Environment and Planning**

**Inquiry into ‘Sustainability of energy supply and resources in
NSW’**

Mark Latham MLC, 7 May 2020

I understand from media reports (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 4 May 2020) that the Committee has extended its brief to examine the role renewable energy jobs might play in NSW’s economic recovery from the Coronavirus downturn.

The State Government has already provided the answer to the Committee’s inquiry. In March 2020, the Minister for Energy and Environment, Matt Kean, released the ‘Net Zero Plan, Stage 1: 2020-2030’ policy plan.

Extensive research work and “modelling by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment informed the plan with all major sectors of the NSW economy addressed, including electricity, transport, agriculture, on-site energy use, mining, industry, waste and forestry”. (Page 37)

The Minister himself outlined how, “The NSW and Commonwealth Governments will invest almost \$2 billion over 10 years to reduce emissions in NSW – making this the most comprehensive, fully-funded plan in Australia.” (Page 2)

Policies were announced for public investments in hydrogen technology, solar panels, wind farms, three Renewable Energy Zones, electric vehicles, EV charging stations, EV model availability, a \$450 million Emissions Intensity Reduction Program, a Climate Solutions Fund, an expanded Energy Efficiency Program, Primary Industries Productivity and Abatement Program, Coal Innovation Program (to reduce emissions), landfill and organic waste diversion strategies, Green Investment Strategy, carbon financial services hub, BASIX and NABERS reform, Clean Technology Program, national parks expansion and a low-carbon NSW procurement policy. It was a very comprehensive plan.

And the employment outcome from this avalanche of policy activity and spending? Over the next 10 years, “New South Wales is expected to create almost 2400 jobs.” (Page 5) That is, less than 240 jobs per annum.

This highlights an important reality: the employment returns from government investment in renewable energy are paltry. This is a massive waste of money, especially when compared to returns from public capital works projects and their large multiplier effects.

The promotion of renewable energy threatens 75,000 coal-reliant jobs in the Hunter Valley. Why would the NSW Government spend billions of dollars going down this path when the upside involves less than 240 jobs per annum?

In the face of a deep economic recession and double-digit unemployment, why threaten 75,000 jobs for the creation of 2,400 jobs in a decade? I know governments are subject to bouts of insanity but this one would require the reopening of Callan Park.