

2 November 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 7 - Planning and Environment  
NSW Legislative Council  
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**Re: Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Bill 2023 - Question on Notice**

Dear Committee and secretariat,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear at Monday's hearing by video link. I took a question on notice from the Chair regarding The Australia Institute's views on the appropriateness of the proposed state target of 70% emissions reduction from 2005 levels by 2035.



Based on analysis in a [recent paper](#) from *Nature Climate Change*, we estimate:

- If the world followed NSW's 70% reduction by 2035 target, and continued to net zero at a similar rate (achieved 2043), this would give the world a ~80% chance of staying below 2.5°C warming, and a ~50% chance of staying below 2.1°C.
  - **This is more ambitious than Australia as a whole, but still incompatible with a <2°C world, and goes well beyond 1.5°C.**
- A 2035 target of a 77% reduction on 2005 levels by 2035 (net zero 2041) would be in line with a "fair share" contribution to ~50% chance of keeping warming to 2°C.
- If NSW wanted to achieve its "fair share" of a 1.5°C world, it would reach **net zero by 2027**.

Also relevant to this inquiry is [recent Australia Institute research](#), based on National Greenhouse Accounts data, that shows how NSW and Victoria have led the other states in achieving significant emissions reductions compared to 2005 levels. It is increases in emissions from Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland that have skewed the nation's emissions reduction efforts, largely due to fossil gas export expansion.

This puts further pressure on NSW to reduce its emissions if Australia as a whole is to meet its targets. Advocacy by the NSW Government against major emissions increases from the other states would assist with Australia's emissions reduction task and reduce the burden on the NSW community.

Yours Sincerely

Rod Campbell  
Research Director  
The Australia Institute