

**Submission  
No 17**

**INQUIRY INTO ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND  
ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT (TERRITORIAL LIMITS)  
BILL 2019**

**Organisation:** EIANZ NSW

**Date Received:** 18 December 2019

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## **EIANZ NSW Division - Submission on the consideration of Scope 3 Emissions in planning decisions**

The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) represents a broad range of environmental professionals within NSW. This includes members who work for government, industry, academia and a range of other fields. We seek to reflect the views of our broader membership when it comes to important policy and practice issues that are relevant to our members on a professional and political level.

We note that the NSW Government has recently introduced to parliament the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Territorial Limits) Bill 2019*. This bill is designed to limit the consideration of 'scope 3' greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) outside of NSW. Scope 3 emissions describe those that are derived from the burning, in other countries, of fossil fuels mined in NSW.

The EIANZ NSW Division wishes to express our deep concern over the NSW Government's intentions in introducing this bill. The well-documented climate consequences of burning fossil fuels are not limited to the jurisdiction in which they are burned – they affect the entire planet. As such we believe that including the consideration of scope 3 emissions in planning decisions is not only correct, but is a moral obligation to the people of NSW, the planet and all future generations. Rather than limiting them, the NSW Government should be increasing the scope of the consideration of scope 3 emissions across other policy areas, such as government procurement and broader economic policy.

This bill is also clearly and fundamentally incompatible with the NSW Government's existing commitment to a target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. For this target to be met, and eventually exceeded, considerations of scope 3 emissions and other climate-centric measures within the planning system and elsewhere will become vital.

We express our disappointment that such a bill could be placed before parliament in the context the numbers of citizens and other civil society organisations that have been campaigning unsuccessfully for clear policy action on *lowering* NSW's GHG emissions and making provision for adaptation to its now unavoidable effects.

We urge the NSW Government to immediately retract this bill. We further urge the NSW Government to act immediately and decisively on climate change in all relevant policy areas, starting with planning policy. NSW must act to fulfil its responsibilities to the fundamental rights of its citizens and the environment, and this must be commence immediately.

**Yours sincerely, EIANZ NSW Division**