

**Submission
No 7**

**INQUIRY INTO CLIMATE CHANGE (NET ZERO
FUTURE) BILL 2023**

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Introducing the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Bill 2023 to legislate climate targets for NSW and create a Net Zero Commission are excellent moves and I congratulate the NSW Government. As a public health doctor, I am very aware of the clear scientific evidence that climate change is extremely harmful to human health and causes much unnecessary premature mortality and that these problems will inevitably get worse in NSW and globally as global warming increases, as it certainly will because we are still pumping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Legislation to tackle this problem is long overdue but very welcome.

However, there are shortcomings in the Bill that should be corrected if the residents of NSW are to benefit maximally from it. These include:

- Putting a stop on all coal mine expansions. These are a major and unnecessary source of greenhouse gases (and other harmful air pollutants such as particulate matter, oxides of sulphur and nitrogen and heavy metals).

- Putting a stop on all new and expanded gas field applications. The evidence is clear that gas is not cleaner than coal over the whole lifecycle of the the two fuels.

- The Commission's role should include decisions about proposed coal mine expansions. Decision making should include consideration of the lifetime emissions associated with any proposed mine expansion.

- Climate change should be made a central consideration of all government decision-making. Climate change is the most serious threat to the lives and health of NSW residents and warrants being considered in all decisions across all portfolios.

Many thanks.