

**Submission
No 24**

INQUIRY INTO CLIMATE CHANGE (NET ZERO FUTURE) BILL 2023

Organisation: NSW Ports
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Sue Higginson MLC
Chair
Portfolio Committee No.7 – Planning and Environment
NSW Legislative Council
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Via email

Dear Ms Higginson,

Inquiry into the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Bill 2023

NSW Ports welcomes the opportunity to provide comments to Portfolio Committee No. 7 - Planning and Environment and your inquiry regarding the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Bill 2023 (the Bill).

NSW Ports is responsible for managing the port and freight assets of Port Botany, Port Kembla, the Cooks River Intermodal Terminal, and the Enfield Intermodal Logistics Centre. At NSW Ports, our focus is managing the key trade gateways connecting the people and businesses of NSW and Australia to global markets.

NSW Ports supports the Bill to:

- establish guiding principles for action to address climate change;
- set targets for the reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions in New South Wales by 2030 and 2050;
- set an objective for New South Wales to be more resilient to a changing climate (the adaptation objective); and
- establish the Net Zero Commission to independently monitor, review and report on progress in New South Wales towards the 2030 and 2050 targets, the adaptation objective, and other matters.

Targets

NSW Ports supports the 2030 target for a 50 per cent reduction from 2005 levels, and the 2050 target to achieve net zero. The targets align with the international commitments established through the 2015 Paris Agreement, in addition to aligning with targets set by the Commonwealth Government.

This alignment provides certainty to business to invest in clean energy projects and technology and to set our own goals for net zero emissions. NSW Ports 2022 Sustainability Strategy builds on our previous target of net zero Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 2025, with commitments to use 100 per cent renewable electricity and to work with tenants and customers across our port precincts in the implementation of their decarbonisation roadmaps.

Net Zero Commission

NSW Ports supports the establishment of a Net Zero Commission. New South Wales is in need of a strong independent body tasked with monitoring, reviewing, and reporting on progress towards our targets.

Transparency of the roadmap to net zero as well as current performance will assist business in making key investment decisions. Having key advocates in the Commissioner roles will also provide a strong link between the actions of industry and government policy.

NSW Ports' Role in Achieving Net Zero

A range of renewable energy generation technologies are required to meet the targets that the Bill is proposing to legislate. Currently, NSW Ports supports this transition through the importation of solar farm components (generally containerised through Port Botany) and onshore wind farm components (generally in bulk project cargo through Port Kembla). Squadron Energy are also developing an LNG import facility which will be able to play a role in firming power and potentially allow for a future transition to other sustainable fuels.

Challenges exist in supply chains however, and as onshore wind tower components get bigger, there becomes a need to further enhance the road transport routes between Port Kembla and project locations.

As outlined in the NSW Ports 40-year Master Plan released in May 2023 (www.nswports.com.au/NSWPorts-Master-Plan), we have identified the need to develop a port facility in the Outer Harbour of Port Kembla (see Figure 1 below) to facilitate the needs of the offshore wind industry. This facility will accommodate offshore wind proponents' requirements for layup and assembly of wind tower components before the completed turbines are towed and installed in the proposed offshore wind zone.



Figure 1 - artist impression of Port Kembla Outer Harbour Offshore Wind Facility

The development of Port Kembla is a critical enabler to support any offshore wind development in the Illawarra. There are no alternative locations (within 150 kilometres of the Illawarra offshore zone) for the assembly of the turbines, making Port Kembla critical in ensuring the economic viability of the entire wind zone.

With this in mind, NSW Ports stands ready to work with both state and federal governments to solve the challenges of delivering the required port infrastructure to enable offshore wind projects to meet our broader decarbonisation targets.

The setting of targets through this Bill and the establishment of the Commission will allow for greater collaboration between NSW Ports and the NSW Government in ensuring we are able to facilitate what is needed to meet the state's targets. Australia's ports will play a critical role in reaching net zero and as such, we support the introduction of this Bill which aims to embed common objectives and methods of collaboration.

Should you wish to discuss this further please contact me at

Yours sincerely,

Greg Walls
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NSW Ports