

Submission  
No 25

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

**Name:** Ms Gail Mensinga

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## The Committee membership into Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Bill 2023

Dear members,

I Gail Mensinga am a retired Social Worker, Mother, Grandmother and Community member with a passion for nature and conservation and a liveable planet for my grandchildren and all others including our interrelated biodiversity & ecological systems. Therefore, I receive regular updates from NGOs such as Lock the Gate, Wilderness Society, Farmers for Climate Action, Nature Conservation Council, NEFA, The Australian Institute, Climate Council, and the Governments own IPCC reports since at least 2018 and the current IEA report October 2023.

I partially support the bill, however it needs significant amendments:

- 1) Part 2 s8 (8) The language “should” does not support statutory obligations to meet the objects of the Act and community expectations. (I submit this should be amended to read “Action to address climate change **must** take into account the following.....) This amendment would be consistent with s8(1-5) inclusive.
- 2) Part 2 s9(1)(a&b) appears to set unrealistic targets, which are not science based, to reduce greenhouse emissions by 30 June 2030 by a least 50% of the 2005 net greenhouse gas emissions and reach by 30 June 2050 to reach Net Zero. Due to our overlapping climate emergencies such as IEA irreversible climate tipping points, and the UN Chief recognising the, “Hottest July ever signals era of global boiling has arrived.” <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/07/1139162> As well as Australia’s 2022 east coast catastrophic flooding and the 2019/20 firestorms leads me to fully support The Climate Council recommendations to amend the targets to “For Australia, we must get our emissions on a steep downward trajectory with an actionable plan to reduce emissions by 75% below 2005 levels by 2030 and reach net zero by 2035.”  
<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/missionzero/>
- 3) Please consider inserting words to the effect under section 9 (c):  
“**This Act binds the Crown and all its Government agencies, including the Commission to ensure all Government policy, practices and decisions meet the greenhouse gas emission targets under the amended under 9(1)(a&b)**”
- 4) According to Lock the Gate “The Bill needs to be complimented by immediate action to stop dangerous new coal expansions and put NSW on a pathway to switch away from gas. Policies that promote endless expansion of coal mining like the “Strategic statement on coal” introduced by former Deputy Premier John Barilaro, should be scrapped and the NSW Government needs to start the process of developing its promised roadmap to gas decarbonisation”. Further the bill should enable the NSW Government to set sectorial methane targets and from other sectors. The IEA report validates “targeted actions to tackle methane emissions from fossil fuel reduction and use are essential to limit the risk of crossing the irreversible climate tipping points.”  
<https://www.iea.org/news/urgent-action-to-cut-methane-emissions-from-fossil-fuel-operations-essential-to-achieve-global-climate-targets>

5) Stopping Native Forest logging is key to this bill for future climate action and targets to meet of Net Zero by 2035. W.A and Victoria have already committed to doing this. The IPCC reports have recommended ending coal and gas and Native Forest deforestations to stay below 1.5 degrees since 2018. The current 2023 “Blueprint Institute report” demonstrates there is no economic case for continuing Native Forest logging....in particular, we find that managing the North Coast region in a manner consistent with conservation would abate an average of 0.45million tonnes of carbon annually. This equates to a net present value of \$174 million....they recommend:

- a. @ 1, immediately cease all Government subsidies to FCNSW...
- b. @3 legislate the end of Native Forest Logging in NSW
- c. @4 expand land valuation methodologies to include carbon storage, tourism and water
- d. @5 Expand hardwood timber plantations to meet hardwood demand
- e. @ 7 Expand formal policy mechanisms aimed at conserving native forest.

Source:

<https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2023-04/apo-nid322479.pdf>

6) We need incentivise carbon capture crops. Industrial Hemp for example:

<https://agrifutures.com.au/product/australian-industrial-hemp-strategic-rde-plan/>

<https://cfah.org/hemp-products-list/>

7) S9(3) is totally unconscionable , not in the public interest and highlights the lack of good faith & integrity in the legislation itself. It appears as greenwashing these serious irreversible climate tipping points which we all are subject to as evidenced above. Section 3 should be redrafted with words to the effect, “the regulations may set specific interim targets to reduce net greenhouse emissions in NSW by a particular date occurring before 30 June 2035”

8) Given the conduct of previous and the present Minister for environments we need an amendment here, words to the effect:

- a. Part 3 section 12(1)(a) 5-7 commissioners appointed by the Governor on the recommendations of the Climate Change Net Zero Future bill committee.
- b. Section 12(4) The climate change Net zero bill committee may appoint a commissioner as chair of the commission.
- c. The above is raised due to regular observations of disappointing appointments of so called independent commissioners, regulators such as The children’s commissioner who have very limited powers other than reporting, or inadequate budgets to meet the objects of this bill which is referred to below.

9) Section 10 ....adaptation objective is that NSW is more resilient to a changing climate. This objective keeps the focus on individuals personal coping skills and resources to adapt to emergencies. However when met with overlapping emergencies and under resourced disaster welfare plans and budgets, and misinformation and/or disinformation unconscionable lobbying about tipping points etc the ecological systems will fail and communities will not be able to adapt to food

shortages, rely on unpredictable weather pattern, with time will not remain resilient & the adaptation factor will fail as all the decades of science has reported.

- 10) Only with adequate budgets, realistic climate change targets and integrity in the legislation itself flies in the face of natural trauma responses and ill health outcomes for members of communities who have faced flooding and fires and climate tipping points by the overlapping emergencies and unmet recovery plans or budgets as has occurred in Lismore and surrounds during the last 18 months. Old ways of adapting to irregular flooding or fires is not a sufficient model to use when many communities are facing irreversible climate change tipping points as was predicted over 30 years and ignored or shelved.
- 11) For this reason, all references in Division 2 &3 should reflect 2035 not 2050.
- 12) Section 20 should include a register of lobbyists and influencers/donations and consultants consulted by the Commission.
- 13) Section 23 (2) (e)insert "in the public interest to the press and or members of parliament.

Yours sincerely

Gail Mensinga.

Thanks for the opportunity. The short time frame has made analysis of this bill difficult.