

**Submission  
No 26**

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

**Name:** Mr David Rowe  
**Date Received:** 23 October 2023

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To the Committee Members inquiring into the climate change ( NetZero future) Bill 2023.

I, David Rowe am writing to express my deep concern about the pressing issue of climate change and its severe impact on New South Wales. The urgency of this matter cannot be overstated, and I implore the NSW government to take bold and ambitious steps to reduce carbon emissions to 75% by 2030 and achieve complete carbon neutrality by 2035.

- I partially support the bill.
- I suggest the following amendments and explain my reasons.
- Urgent Action is essential to Reduce greenhouse gas Emissions in NSW.
- The number one concern for youth today is climate change. Australia's Largest youth organisation:
  - <https://www.facebook.com/100064655444765/posts/pfbid0RqPuSHqABF4Njbm7w1yhXzT3RZbMTKg6CMKWDqcgwAGtBPxbpi3Xd96Emn2vSuAJ/>
- NSW can and should lead the way.

I believe, based on the evidence and community concern, especially the young, I implore you to recommend the following amendments to the bill:

Section 8 ( 8) needs to be amended to read:

“ Action to address climate change **MUST** take into account the following-“ (delete should- there can't be any discretion given we have had 30 years to act on climate change)

9 (1) (a) needs amendments:

“ by 30 June 2030 – to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in New South Wales by at least 75% from the net, greenhouse gas emissions in 2005, and

(b) by 30th of June **2035** to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in New South Wales to zero.

Please consider inserting words to the effect:

(c ) **this Act binds the crown and all government agencies including the Commission to ensure all government policy, practices and decisions meet the greenhouse gas emissions targets under 9 (1 ) (a &b).**”

The targets need to be science based. In support of this proposed amendment, I rely on:

The Climate Council.

### “Key Findings

**1. Climate change is accelerating with deadly consequences. The ecological systems that have sustained human life and societies for generations are being severely damaged by increasing heat and worsening extreme weather events.**

- There is no safe level of global warming. Already, at a global average temperature rise of 1.1°C, we're experiencing more powerful storms, destructive marine and land heatwaves, and a new age of megafires.....”

Source:

<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/net-zero-emissions-plummet-decade/>

No doubt you've been able to consider this report and it's exposure in the media:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2021-04-15/plan-to-decarbonise-australia-in-15-years-climate-council-report/100063906>

## There are:

### 1. Immediate Environmental and Economic Benefits:

Reducing carbon emissions at an accelerated pace will have immediate and far-reaching benefits for the state of New South Wales. We will see cleaner air, improved public health, and a more sustainable environment. Furthermore, a swift transition to clean energy will create thousands of jobs and stimulate economic growth, positioning NSW as a leader in the global green economy.

We can, and this new government must, immediately prevent all new coal and gas including planned expansions, stop Native Forest logging and accelerate a transition to alternatives as a matter of urgency. These should be regionally based and community driven, but government supported. Investment needs to be governmentally promoted, especially research. Just one example research into easily accessible products like Industrial Hemp:

Links:

<https://physics.news/2020-10-08-a-truly-versatile-crop-hemp-batteries-can-be-a-more-powerful-alternative-to-graphene-or-lithium-batteries.html>

<https://thefarmermagazine.com.au/hemp-industry-set-to-thrive/>

<https://agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/22-030.pdf>

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

<https://hempco.net.au/hemp-cars-benefits-and-examples/blog>

<https://hempplastic.com/facts/>

### 2. Moral Responsibility:

We have a moral obligation to future generations to address the climate crisis now. Failing to take bold action will lead to devastating consequences for our children and grandchildren. By setting a target of 100% carbon neutrality by 2035, NSW can take a strong stance in fulfilling this ethical responsibility.

### 3. Global Leadership:

NSW has the potential to be a global leader in climate action. By adopting these ambitious targets, we can set an example for other regions and countries to follow. It's an opportunity to showcase our commitment to addressing the global climate crisis and positioning ourselves as an environmental role model.

### 4. Technological Advancements:

The rapid advancements in clean energy technologies make it more feasible than ever to achieve these goals. By embracing innovation and supporting research and development, NSW can become a hub for cutting-edge renewable energy solutions.

### 5. Resilience and Adaptation:

Climate change is already impacting our state with more frequent and severe extreme weather events. Taking decisive action now will not only reduce emissions but also increase our resilience and adaptability to these challenges, protecting our citizens and infrastructure.

### 6. Public Support:

A significant portion of the population supports aggressive carbon reduction measures. By aligning with the public's desire for a cleaner, more sustainable future, the government can strengthen its relationship with the electorate.

Please see attachment [Re Farmers for climate action survey, separate file.](#)

Section (2) of the bill needs amendment to protect the people of NSW and ors from further and increased disasters.

We need to prevent this happening again, let alone getting worse:

<https://www.smh.com.au/interactive/2022/lismore-flooding/>

The potential for the worst bushfire seasons in NSW ( Australia) is ahead of us as well. September 2023 driest on record. October not looking good either.

“ The regulations may make provisions to ensure the following targets I are met-

- (a) The implementation of the 2030 and **2035** targets, ( replace 2050 with 2035)
- (b) The **accurate and transparent** calculation and assessment of greenhouse, gas, emissions, including by-
- (c ) Other matters relating to the 2030, **2035** targets.

Section (3 )**The regulations may set specific interim targets to reduce net greenhouse, gas emissions in New South Wales by a particular date occurring before 2035.**

Part (3 section) 12

- (1) (a) 5 to 7 commissioners appointed by the governor on the recommendations of the **Climate Change Net Zero Future) Bill committee.**
- (4) The **Climate Change Net Zero Future) Bill committee** may appoint a commissioner as Chair of the Commission.

**How can our new NSW Government Achieve the ambitious but necessary goal of 75% reduction of carbon emissions by 2030 and complete carbon neutrality by 2035?** Here are some strategies and actions that the NSW government can consider meeting these targets:

1. Accelerating the Transition to Renewable Energy:
  - a) Invest in renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and hydroelectric power.
  - b) Ensure clear targets for feed in tariff and enable the share of renewable energy in the state’s energy mix.
  - c) The bill must be complemented by immediate action to stop dangerous new coal expansion, stop immediately all Native Forest logging and deforestation, and put New South Wales on a pathway to switch away from gas.
  - d) The bill needs to be complimented by accelerated action to diversify Regional economies, create new jobs and deliver extensive skills and training opportunities.
  
2. Energy Efficiency and Conservation:
  - a) Implement energy efficiency programs for homes, businesses, and public buildings.
  - b) Promote energy-saving technologies and practices.
  - c) IEA calls for 75% emissions by 2030: <https://www.iea.org/reports/curtailing-methane-emissions-from-fossil-fuel-operations> A new report from the IEA says that “*target and actions to tackle methane omissions from fossil fuel production and use our essential to limit the risk of crossing irreversible climate tipping points.*” The IEA recommends a target to cut energy sector meeting omissions,( particularly coal mine methane emissions )by 75% by 2030.

3. Electrify Transportation:
  - a. Promote electric vehicles (EVs) by providing incentives, expanding charging infrastructure, and encouraging public transportation.
  - b. Rebuilding the northern rivers railway network with solar trains:  
<https://northernriversrail.com.au/?p=3524>
  - c. Farmers and rural operations need electric vehicles at responsible prices. Here one example:<https://www.ford.com/trucks/f150/f150-lightning/>
  - d. Transition government and local council fleets to electric vehicles.
  
4. Promote Sustainable Agriculture:
  - a. Support sustainable farming practices that reduce emissions and sequester carbon in soils.
  - b. <https://theregenerators.org/rachels-farm/>
  - c. <https://documentaryaustralia.com.au/environmental-accelerator/regenerating-australia/>
  - d. Preventing Forest destruction by Forestry Corp and Encourage reforestation and afforestation efforts in agricultural areas.
  - e. Australians are trying to lead the way. We need government to facilitate and support us.NSW lags behind in greenhouse gas capture mitigation ( as defined by this bill).
  - f. There are important industries that can provide a solution and certain government actions can be taken immediately to facilitate the capture and reduction of greenhouse gases now.
  - g. Stopping native forest logging. There is no economic case for Native Forest logging. The taxpayer Subsidies put into fossil fuel, Forestry Corp could and should be utilised to meet the above targets,  
<https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2023-04/apo-nid322479.pdf>
  - h. There is a widespread consensus behind locally growing and manufacturing of industrial hemp:
 

"Hemp could be a real opportunity for the timber industry to pivot into," she says.

"It can be used for a whole range of [things] from production of textiles through to bioplastics, construction and biofuel," Ms Payne says.

**Building the hemp industry**Victoria's now-disbanded industrial hemp task force reported in 2020 that Tasmania's industry was worth \$4.5 million.
  - i. The economic and environmental benefits are significant, say researchers.
  - j. "We know that there's a lot of interest in not only the opportunities for what hemp can create, but also ... the fact that hemp is an incredible carbon sink," Ms Payne says: source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-01/industrial-hemp-vying-for-victoria-government-boost/102415910>
  - k. <https://www.xhemp.au/blog/tasmanian-stories-and-lucas>
  - l. <https://www.nrhemp.com.au>

- m. We need less regulation for low THC Hemp and no cost for licenses. <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/broadacre-crops/summer-crops/hemp/nsw-hemp-industry>
5. Green Building Standards:
    - a. Implement and enforce stringent energy-efficient building codes.
    - b. Encourage the construction of green and carbon-neutral buildings.
    - c. <https://hempblockaustralia.com/>
  6. Carbon Pricing:
    - a) Consider implementing carbon pricing mechanisms such as carbon taxes or cap-and-trade systems to incentivize emissions reduction.
  7. Support Research and Innovation:
    - a) Invest in research and development of clean energy technologies.
    - b) Foster innovation in areas like energy storage and carbon capture and storage.
    - c) Utilize subsidies given to Forestry Corp and Fossil Fuels to become a clever country No owned by Fossil Fuel delinquents. Don't act like Canada:
    - d) <https://youtu.be/u7s-BgfcFXw?si=1hpEJtN0eApXK626>
    - e) Lead other states by repealing Anti Protest laws. People shouldn't have to protest against corrupted governments:  
[https://youtu.be/kecnSHmznic?si=yNtr5S25pXdx9\\_OZ](https://youtu.be/kecnSHmznic?si=yNtr5S25pXdx9_OZ)
  8. Public Transportation and Active Transport:
    - a. Expand and improve public transportation systems across NSW.
    - b. We once had a viable transportation system that was gutted by previous governments. [https://northernriversrail.com.au/?page\\_id=59](https://northernriversrail.com.au/?page_id=59)
    - c. Encourage cycling and walking as viable alternatives for short trips.
  9. Waste Reduction and Recycling:
    - a. Implement comprehensive recycling and waste reduction programs.
    - b. Promote circular economy principles to reduce waste and emissions.
    - c. Financially support local councils and small businesses to recycle locally.
    - d. Cootamundra tile factory 20 minutes in :  
<https://youtu.be/4fkbQynfSyY?si=YqfHxynRjt1vMzpl>
  10. Community Engagement:
    - a. Educate and engage the public on the importance of carbon reduction.
    - b. Encourage individuals and businesses to participate in emissions reduction efforts.
    - c. Encourage community to Insist on Federal Government to hold big business, Federal government agencies to work to the above targets.
  11. Collaborate with Local Governments and Stakeholders:
    - a) Work closely with local governments to align efforts and resources.
    - b) Follow the lead of local councils like city of Sydney:  
<https://news.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/articles/net-zero-by-2035-city-sydney-bold-new-plan>
    - c) Byron Shire Council:  
<https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Services/Environment/Climate-change/Net-Zero-Projects>

- d) Ballina Shire Council: <https://ballina.nsw.gov.au/climate-change-action>
  - e) Collaborate with businesses, non-profits, and communities to share expertise and resources.
12. Policy and Regulatory Framework:
    - a. Enact and enforce policies and regulations that support emissions reduction goals.
    - b. Consider setting legally binding emissions reduction targets.
  13. Monitoring and Reporting:
    - a. Establish a robust system for monitoring and reporting emissions data.
    - b. Regularly assess progress toward targets and adjust strategies as needed.
  14. Adaptation and Resilience:
    - a. Develop plans to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
    - b. Build resilience against extreme weather events and sea-level rise.
    - c. Ensure we have sufficient resources locally to extinguish fires at their source and to address flooding and landslides consequences.
  15. International Collaboration:
    - Collaborate with other states, countries, and international organizations to share best practices and leverage resources for emissions reduction.
  16. Financial Incentives:
    - Offer financial incentives and grants to encourage businesses and individuals to adopt clean energy and sustainable practices.
  17. Just Transition:
    - Implement policies that ensure a fair transition for workers and communities affected by the shift away from carbon-intensive industries.

It's essential for the NSW government to create a comprehensive, long-term plan that integrates these strategies and engages stakeholders at all levels. Additionally, periodic review and adjustment of policies and strategies will be critical to staying on track to achieve these ambitious emissions reduction targets.

In conclusion, we cannot afford to delay action any longer. The climate crisis is here, and the future of New South Wales depends on the choices we make today. Setting a target of 75% carbon reduction by 2030 and 100% carbon neutrality by 2035 is not just a choice; it is a necessity. I implore the NSW government to act swiftly and decisively to combat climate change and secure a better future for all residents of this great state.

Sincerely,  
David Rowe