

Submission  
No 27

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 23 October 2023

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Partially  
Confidential

To the NSW Parliament and Minister Penny Sharpe:

Thank you for proposing the NSW Climate Bill. It is gratifying to see NSW beginning to take action on climate change and emissions. However, the Bill needs to be strengthened in several areas, many of which would bring our state in line with climate legislation in Victoria, and with global best practice.

Please amend the Bill to include the following:

1. The Commission must be required to provide advice on **all new developments** that produce intensive emissions, such as new and extended coal mines and coal seam gas projects. This would require several additional steps:
  - a. A requirement that members of the Commission NOT have a conflict of interest with a net zero policy. In other words, the Commission should not be comprised of executives from the fossil fuel industry.
  - b. The Commission needs to have real power to make/influence decisions across government decisions that have climate impacts. This includes forestry, development, energy, environment and any other areas of government where emissions are produced and must be reduced. The Victorian Climate Change Act (Part 3) is a suitable model that NSW should follow.
2. The targets proposed in the Bill must be amended to **be based in the science of emissions and climate change**. We must strengthen the Bill to achieve net zero emissions by 2035.
  - a. The Bill needs a mechanism to regularly review and raise the emissions targets. Again, the Victorian Climate Act is a suitable model.
  - b. The Bill should include the current target of a 70% reduction in emissions by 2035.
  - c. The carbon budgets in the Bill should be based on science and the Paris Agreements to limit warming to 1.5 degrees, NOT on the Commonwealth carbon budgets.
  - d. A science-based approach embedded in the Bill should limit the use of carbon credits and offsets to 'reduce' emissions, by focusing on actual emissions and not the politics of moving them around to other parts of the state and the economy.
3. The Bill must include a pathway for immediate action to **move NSW away from gas** as a so-called 'transition' fuel. The Bill must include a roadmap for gas decarbonisation.
4. The Bill must include **sectoral targets for methane emissions** and require the fossil fuel industry to cut fugitive methane emissions by 75% by 2030.