

**Submission
No 29**

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

Name: Mr Thomas Ebersoll

Date Received: 23 October 2023

To: The Planning and Environment Committee
Re: NSW Climate Bill

23 October 2023

The NSW Climate Bill is certainly a step in the right direction as it legislates emission targets and establishes a Commission to monitor these. However, the Bill falls short as its focus seems to be on monitoring emissions rather than legislating to reject any proposal for new fossil fuel projects in NSW. Without this legislation or at the least an extension of the Commission's powers to monitor the emissions of new proposals, the Bill and its attempt to reduce emissions is bound to fail.

Including legislation to restrict coal mine expansion in the Bill needs to be accompanied by support for those towns which rely on coal extraction and where current proposals for mine extensions exist. This support would enable diversification strategies for new forms of employment. I live near one such town, Lithgow, a 'Transition Town' which needs to move away from coal and coal fired energy to a more sustainable economy. With this Bill the Government could address the diversification of regional economies such as Lithgow and assist with support for this change

In addition, the target in the proposed Bill ignores the urgency with which we should address climate change. Stronger science-based targets need to be legislated and monitored every 5 years as in Victoria.

The Bill should also consider other emissions, particularly from methane and enforce a reduction of methane emissions by 75% by 2030 as recommended by the IEA.

As proposed, the Bill will be a separate part of the legislative system. Climate change will influence every aspect of our lives and as such needs to be considered in every aspect of Government policy, decision making and legislation.

Finally, I urge the members of the Committee to leave political 'point-scoring' out of their inquiry and advice and treat climate change with the urgency it represents in all our lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Thomas Ebersoll