

**Submission
No 31**

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

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If the Net Zero Commission is to be meaningful it must provide advice on all new emissions-intensive developments, such as fossil fuel projects.

The pace of climatic change is dramatic. Every day there is news of ecosystem collapse. Today, for example there is an article on the ABC about 19 ecosystems across Australia and Antarctica are in a state of collapse. There was also a piece about the speed of melt of the West Antarctic Ice Shelf and the impact of this on the Thwaites Glacier that could see much faster sea level rise than previously predicted.

And this is the real story, that the impacts on the land are compatible with what the NSW Government NARCLIM project estimated would occur in 2065-2070. The climate projections and data used throughout the AdaptNSW website primarily use NARCLiM projections, which were released in 2014 and are known as NARCLiM1.0. It states "By 2030 maximum temperatures are projected to rise by 0.7°C and continue to rise by 2.1°C by 2070." But we are already at 1.5 degrees! Their 0.7 by 2030 is totally out of date, and yet this scenario is, according to their Mission 'To help NSW households, businesses and government to understand and adapt to climate change impacts' When it is actually creating false hope and ensuring decisions made on that basis are not fit for purpose. The climate projections underpinning NSW Planning laws is hopelessly behind the actual science of what is happening now.

So every opportunity must be made in legislation to strengthen targets, and where possible, map out the pathway to meet those targets.

All government decisions should consider climate change and how it will impact each proposal. It will affect our health: mosquito borne diseases moving south; heat stress; power outages in hospitals. It will affect transport: asphalt roads will melt; vehicles will overheat blocking traffic. It will affect agriculture: lack of livestock due to drought; animal heat stress due to lack of shade; crop failure. It will affect our biodiversity: lack of suitable habitat within safe climate parameters for many species will see local, then regional extinctions. In education, most public schools have no air-conditioning making learning impossible when the temperature is above 30 degrees. Is there air-conditioning in prisons or are is the plan to further raise the temperature inside the jails. Domestic violence, in fact all violence is known to increase in the heat as people 'lose their cool'. Infrastructure and construction will need to be done in the cool of the day etc. These are just a few quick thoughts but the list is long across

So the Bill should include the mechanism for climate change impacts to be central to government decision-making. And it should consider the other greenhouse gases such as methane.