

Submission
No 55

INQUIRY INTO CLIMATE CHANGE (NET ZERO FUTURE) BILL 2023

Organisation: Wollar Progress Association

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WOLLAR PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

WOLLAR NSW 2850

Portfolio Committee No 7 – Planning and Environment
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie St Sydney NSW 2000

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Submission to Inquiry into the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Bill 2023

The Wollar community and surrounding district has been significantly impacted by expanding coal mine operations for over 20 years. The range of carbon emissions from large coal mines is highly significant including methane release, diesel combustion in large mining vehicle fleets and diesel combustion in a high number of regular train movements.

All of these emissions must be accounted for when reporting on the NSW carbon budget.

Wollar Progress Association supports the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Bill 2023 (the Bill) that will put emissions reduction targets for NSW into law and establish a Net Zero Commission to monitor and report publicly on progress toward these targets.

However, we urge that the Bill be strengthened in a number of ways:

1. The targets must maintain the current agreed 70% reduction by 2035 to effectively move towards the net zero target by 2050.
2. Include a mechanism to review and ratchet targets aligned with climate science.
3. Carbon budgets must be based on science and include a contribution to the global agreement to limit warming to 1.5 degrees.
4. The Net Zero Commission be required to provide advice on all carbon intensive development.
5. A moratorium on any coal mine expansion until the Commission is established.

The NSW Government must scrap the Barilaro 'Strategic Statement on Coal' that allowed for two large new areas to be released for coal exploration in the Wollar-Ulan district. Existing coal mines have approval to continue mining up until 2038. There should be no additional expansion after that time, if NSW is to meet a net zero emissions target by 2050.

It is critical that all scope 3 emissions caused by coal mining operations be accounted for within the NSW carbon budget reporting mechanism.

Wollar district has a large Solar Farm project under construction and will provide the key grid connection for the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone. Our community is dealing with the cumulative impact of a range of major projects, many of which will contribute to NSW net zero emission targets.

Wollar and the global climate does not need additional coal mine expansion on our doorstep. We urge this Inquiry to recommend a strengthened Bill and genuine movement to a decarbonised society and economy before extreme weather events destroy our way of life.