

**Submission
No 69**

INQUIRY INTO CLIMATE CHANGE (NET ZERO FUTURE) BILL 2023

Organisation: Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch

Date Received: 25 October 2023



Submission from the Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch on the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Bill 2023.

The Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch is a community organisation affiliated with the Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society.

We have worked in the community of Lane Cove since 2014 to raise awareness about the dangers of coal seam gas mining and coal mining to the environment, farmland, our fresh water supply in the Sydney Water Catchment, and that the burning of fossil fuels is causing dangerous heating, putting the future of all life on this planet at risk.

We have reviewed the NSW Climate Bill, 2023 and do not think its targets and scope are strong or wide enough to have any significant effect on slowing climate warming.

While we support and thank the government for beginning the process of putting a climate bill into law, we would like to see the following amendments made to make the bill more effective.

1. Targets are not science based and not strong enough to lower warming. We want to see a target of net zero emissions by 2035 or at very least 75% by 2035.
2. The NSW government should follow the Victorian governments example of a review every 5 years to check that targets are on track.
3. The Bill needs to apply to other planning laws and operations within all industry and the public sector. Emissions across the whole of society need to be scrutinised and come under the jurisdiction of a climate bill. The Net Zero commission should have the powers to audit industry and government agencies to check emissions and should have the power to enforce emission reductions and bring prosecution for non-compliance.
4. The Net Zero Commission needs to have the responsibility to provide advice on all emissions intensive industry. Especially coal mining, coal seam gas mining, both within Australia and at the place of the burning coal to produce energy in or outside Australia.
5. A Climate Bill cannot be effective without a moratorium on all new coal mining and coal seam gas projects. Coal mining and coal seam gas mining cannot continue if we want to avoid catastrophic climate change, as the science has told us repeatedly in recent years.
6. Methane emissions should come under the scope of this bill more effectively. Warnings about methane have accumulated over the years. Recently the IEA has said, “[t]argeted actions to tackle methane emissions from fossil fuel production and use are essential to limit the risk of crossing irreversible climate tipping points.” The IEA recommends a target to cut energy sector methane emissions (particularly coal-mine methane emissions) by 75% by 2030.

Finally, we call on the government to be bold. The future of Australians depends upon your actions now. As we face another period of high temperatures, and an uncertain summer with bushfires burning already even before summer begins, we in NSW need to feel that the NSW Government has our back. This Bill, while a welcome beginning, has too many holes in it, which could allow carbon emissions to continue to rise.

Sincerely,
Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch.