

Submission
No 92

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

Name: Mr Tim Sullivan
Date Received: 25 October 2023

Parliament of NSW

Planning and Environment Committee

Response to consultation on Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Bill 2023

Dear Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation, which is an important step for NSW. This letter sets out some key recommended improvements to strengthen the legislation and ensure transparency and accountability in the delivery of emissions reductions going forward.

The Bill should be accompanied by a legal duty for NSW Government to establish robust carbon budgets based on detailed modelling with an obligation to monitor and report on progress at least every 5 years. Carbon budgets must be consistent with meeting the interim targets guiding the government towards the 2050 target.

A good example of how this carbon budgeting and reporting requirement was enshrined into law comes from the Environment (Wales) Act. 2016:

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/environment-wales-act-2016-climate-change.pdf>

The Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2, developed in line with advice from the UK Climate Change Committee, is an example of best practice in terms of translating the national and sector carbon budgets into policy and investment priorities:

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-10/net-zero-wales-summary-document.pdf>

NSW Government should adopt this approach to ensure all policy and investment strategies going forward are consistent with their own Net Zero commitments.

As referenced above, the Welsh Government are at least seven years ahead of NSW in this area, having passed their own Climate Change Act in 2016. Along with several colleagues, I am already in touch with advisors to the Welsh Government with a view to importing good practice around climate action to Australia. There would be tremendous benefit in your Committee speaking directly to Welsh Government elected officials and advisors to hear firsthand how to translate climate policy into effective delivery on the ground. Ideally such a meeting would happen prior to gazettal of the new legislation, and I will be in touch separately with your office to try to set this up in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Tim Sullivan, Annandale, NSW