

**Submission
No 95**

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

Name: Mr Les Johnston

Date Received: 25 October 2023

Submission: Climate Change Net Zero Future Bill

I support the decision to adopt a legislated time frame for the reduction of carbon emissions. However, the timeframe in the Bill is lacking in support based on the best climate science. An objective of 70% reduction by 2035 should be specified.

I also support the inclusion of a review process to monitor progress towards reducing carbon emissions. The inclusion of a public and independent review of carbon reduction measures will assist to instil public confidence in the urgency of action to curb global warming.

I have observed that transport carbon emissions have not been reduced and may be increasing due to policies which encourage the sale of heavier ICE vehicles and Federal Government inaction on strengthening air pollution from new vehicles. The NSW Government needs to be a leader in turning around vehicle emissions as it was with the introduction of Unleaded petrol in the 1980's.

The case of transport emissions highlights the need for the proposed Bill to be strengthened so that all areas of Government policy must be captured and required to focus on carbon reduction. The easy rider approach for transport emissions shows that without a policy driven focus, carbon emissions will creep up.

The Bill needs to be modified so that all new or expanding developments are required to go through a rigorous carbon emissions assessment. The current situation of unaccounted for coal mine expansions and gas extraction means that achieving actual carbon emission reduction is likely to be a case of wishful thinking.

NSW planning controls are yet to put in place controls on gas reticulation infrastructure. New residential towers being approved with reticulated gas must be stopped not left to "market" arrangements where there is no shadow price placed on carbon emission expansion industries.

The current regulation of methane emissions from coal mining activities has not delivered any reduction in methane emissions. The net zero bill must include methane emissions from coal mining and gas extraction. The NSW Government could have included fees for methane emissions under the Load Based Licensing scheme. Financial costs provide an effective means for both monitoring of actual emissions and taking seriously the need to address the global warming potential of methane emissions. The Bill should require the inclusion of methane emissions from fossil fuel activities to be an integral element of carbon reduction measures not remain as out of scope.

An integral part of the change to a carbon focused economy is facilitating changes to regional economies including job transfers and skill sets. The Bill needs to include a focus on the changes which must take place as carbon reduction measures take a more expanded role.