

**Submission
No 102**

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

Name: Ms Pat Schultz
Date Received: 24 October 2023

To reduce emissions ALL emissions must be counted, including methane from coal mines, fugitive emissions of methane from coal seam gas mines (this is substantial) and all other emissions. Exempting any sector from reporting accurate information defeats true emissions reduction. New coal mine and CSG mines must be required to report projected emissions.

Increased vegetation is the most obvious way to absorb carbon. NSW forestry have increased forest clearing from 4% of forests per year to 14% per year. Having visited Styx Forest near Armidale this week the devastation is appalling. I have read that all state native forests are being cleared at the same rate. This is despite the fact that there is no financial profit to NSW for this destruction, but a cost of millions of dollars per year. No amount of tree planting or carbon credits will overcome this level of native forest clearing. The amount of waste left in forests to rot and emit carbon is about 25% of the trees cut down. It is absolutely criminal. Without addressing this NSW are not addressing climate change. These forests have a much greater value standing as a carbon sink.

The bill must be written in such a way that it is embedded into other legislation. Climate change must be a priority that can not be ignored in any legislation.

ALL EMISSIONS must be counted, no exceptions regardless of the industry or mine.

There are many jobs in high carbon and methane producing projects such as mining and some other industries. It is important that retraining of the workforce take place. TAFE is an important institution here. Miners and forestry workers must have employment opportunities in renewable energy, tree planting etc.

All new projects must be assessed on the emissions projected for the lifetime of the project. This includes coal mines and coal seam gas projects.