

**Submission  
No 4**

## **INQUIRY INTO 2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NET ZERO COMMISSION**

**Name:** Mr Barry Hadaway

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I am a resident of the Mudgee Region and a member of the Mudgee District Environment Group. The Mudgee Region hosts 3 of the 4 largest coal mines in NSW, the Moolarben, Wilpinjong and Ulan mines. At present Moolarben and Ulan are seeking approval for major mine extensions. These extensions will threaten if not completely destroy the iconic 'Drip' on the Goulburn River, the hydrology of the area and valuable Koala habitat adjacent to the Goulburn River National Park. This is koala habitat where koalas live now - not potential habitat. Approval of the Moolarben Open cut 3 proposed extension would with certainty result in deaths of koalas an iconic threatened species. These extensions will increase scope 1 and 2 emissions. However, if we are serious about climate change action we cannot continue to ignore Scope 3 emissions. NSW does not have its own atmosphere. The NSW government must also consider what other industry sectors will have to reduce emissions faster if mining is allowed to run riot. One other sector that drives high levels of emissions is the Construction Industry. Conventional building using concrete, steel, fired brick and aluminium produces huge quantities of emissions. Is the government going to restrict building in a housing crisis? What the NSW government needs to do is ban mine and gas field new projects and extensions and work to accelerate mine closures to allow headroom in other sectors such as construction. Approving any new mines, gas fields or extensions would be a plan to dramatically fail in Climate Change Action.