

**Submission
No 39**

INQUIRY INTO 2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NET ZERO COMMISSION

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NSW is not on track to meet climate targets. At the end of last year, the NSW Net Zero Commission (NZC) bluntly stated that “unless faster and more significant progress is made, the target for 2030 will not be achieved.”

And they specifically named the NSW coal industry as a key part of this problem – “increased emissions” associated with a “sizeable pipeline” of new coal mining projects are risking the state’s GHG targets.

Therefore:

- The NSW Government should request a specific, dedicated report from the NZC on the risks that coal and gas expansions pose to NSW climate targets, to be completed by June 2025.
- The report should include advice on a coal sectoral target to drive emissions reduction in the coal sector.
- In the meantime, approvals of new coal expansions should be paused until such advice has been provided by the NZC.
- The Net Zero Commission should be asked to provide specific advice and make recommendations on all proposed major coal mine expansions in NSW, as per s15 (3) of the NSW Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023 .
- A Regulation should be created under the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023 to place a duty on key planning decision-makers to meet the 2030 and 2035 climate change targets and restrict downstream emissions.