

2025 consultation

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2025 consultation questions

<p>1. What can you tell us about your experience of the impacts of climate change and how can the commission seek to reflect and respond to this in its work?</p>	<p>2018 - 2019 drought, Goulburn River dropped to lowest level known, combined influence of drawdown from upstream large-scale coal mining and intensity of drought conditions: heat & high evaporation rates</p> <p>Large bushfire to property boundary in late 2019</p> <p>Loss of public road access & destroyed road conditions during 2022-23 intense flooding.</p> <p>December 2023 intense heatwave impacted Sandy Hollow rail line causing a coal train derailment near my property that caused a bushfire in Wollemi NP. Local RFS volunteers & NPWS staff had to control the fire.</p> <p>The economic & social cost of climate driven extreme weather events needs to be factored into analysis of proposed expansion of coal mining projects and extensions of life-of-mine. The current cost-benefits analysis for coal mine projects needs to be reviewed. The weight given to jobs, taxes and royalties as a public benefit has an inherent bias when compared to the impacts on the environment, loss of other industries due to mining footprint, poor social impact assessment for local communities, long-term irreversible impacts on water sources and other considerations that are amplified by climate change impacts.</p> <p>GHG emissions and their cost must be the key determining factor for any new coal expansion. The NZC must require that all economic analysis for coal mine expansion or extension must include the cost of climate change.</p>
<p>2. What actions can the commission take to engage across the community to help drive the shifts needed for the net zero transition and for effective climate change mitigation and adaptation?</p>	<p>Conduct inclusive meetings in coalfield areas to engage with communities that are negatively impacted by mining operations. Work closely with Govt to identify transition opportunities including with the Future Jobs and Investment Authority process. Improve understanding that the social and environmental impacts of coal mining far exceed any perceived impacts from renewable energy projects. Identify areas that have immediate opportunities for transition.</p>
<p>3. How should the commission best engage with First Nations people to learn about cultural knowledge and practices to support adaptation, and what information and evidence should it draw on to inform its understanding of these practices?</p>	

4. What additional mechanisms, support, or incentives can meaningfully empower and enhance First Nations people's involvement in climate mitigation, adaptation and environmental stewardship?	
5. What additional information and evidence should the commission consider when assessing progress towards NSW's targets for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions?	Review of methane emissions measurement and reporting from large scale coal mining projects. Review of the cumulative impact of expansion of coal mining on GHG emissions.
6. The speed of deployment of electricity generation and infrastructure is a key risk to emissions reduction targets. What more could be done to fast-track deployment?	Consider community based micro grids using existing infrastructure and battery hubs.
7. Are the measures now in place sufficient to ensure community engagement and benefit sharing from the build out of infrastructure for the energy transition?	The poor experience with the fast-track roll out of the Central West Orana REZ has caused an unnecessary community backlash. There are significant faults continuing to cause problems eg the community grant fund being limited to within the REZ boundary that fails to cover all the new infrastructure associated with the REZ eg new switching station and construction of 2 x 500 kV transmission lines from Wollar
8. Are First Nations communities adequately engaged and included in sharing the benefits of the transition? What more could be done, and by whom?	
9. What are likely to prove the most effective approaches to accelerate rapid decarbonisation across freight and passenger transport?	Put more freight on rail. Improve public transport links and timetables.
10. What specific actions or policies could increase uptake of	Support for the uptake of regenerative farming practices that include improved soil carbon retention, tree planting, better

emissions reduction strategies in agriculture, both in the short and long term?	pasture management and improved productivity with less intensive inputs from large diesel machinery and chemicals.
11. Given the uncertainties in land-sector net emissions, how should NSW incorporate this sector into the states climate policy and emissions profile?	
12. What specific actions could increase carbon storage and resilience of the existing carbon stock in the land sector and meaningfully enhance the application of First Nations people's knowledge and practices?	
13. What policies or programs at a sectoral level could complement the Safeguard Mechanism to support the accelerated decarbonisation of heavy industry in NSW?	
14. What measures could accelerate industrial heat electrification in NSW, where technology is viable?	
15. What short to medium term measures could be prioritised to address the systemic challenges regarding waste generation and resource recovery?	More investment in recycling and circular economy
16. How could transparency of how coal mines meet their Safeguard Mechanism obligations be improved?	Better reporting in Annual Reports - standardised template for reporting requirements. Clear measurement & monitoring requirements. Clear assessment of GHG emissions from each mine.
17. What measures would lead to coal mines prioritising on-site	Clear conditions of approval

abatement over offsetting?	
18. What measures should be considered beyond the Safeguard Mechanism to reduce emissions of the resources sector, particularly methane emissions, to meet NSW's emissions reduction targets?	No more approval of coal mine expansions or extensions of life of mine
19. What additional measures could accelerate electrification and increase energy efficiency of new and existing buildings?	
20. How could social equity be better addressed in the transition to an electrified built environment?	
21. What approaches could NSW consider to eliminate refrigerants with a GWP >10 from buildings?	
22. What should be included in an emissions monitoring framework for NSW in the context of the transition to net zero, including any specific metrics and indicators?	
23. The adaptation objective is for NSW to be more resilient to a changing climate. The Act allows for regulations to further define the adaptation objective. What does a more resilient NSW look like to you?	<p>I don't understand how NSW can adapt to life-threatening extreme weather events. Clear mapping of key bushfire threat zones has already been undertaken. Floodplains need updated mapping. All key urban infrastructure such as water supply & sewage management need to be above new predicted flood zones.</p> <p>More protection of infrastructure from more extreme heat, fire and flood events</p>
24. What additional information and evidence should the commission consider when assessing	Analysis of current experiences from extreme weather events on urban areas, agriculture and infrastructure. Clear regular reporting on the economic cost of extreme weather events both to public and private sectors. Identification of the most vulnerable communities and demographics.

progress towards the adaptation objective?	
25. How can adaptation planning better use the NSW Government's climate change projections (NARClIM)?	Use projections in all new land use planning decisions so that climate friendly developments are prioritised over GHG generating activities such as coal mining
26. What other information or tools are needed to support decision-makers in NSW?	A clear understanding of the extent and costs of current extreme weather events and the implications of NARClIM projections on the economy, community and environment
27. What initiatives should the commission consider in assessing NSW's preparation and responses to extreme heat and humidity events in NSW?	Strong requirements for good insulation in all buildings, including the responsibility of land lords to fully insulate rentals. More provision of open space and shade in urban areas.
Are there any other pieces of evidence or feedback you would like to add?	<p>It is counter productive to continue approving expanded coal mining operations while implementing renewable energy zones. NSW largest producing coal mine, Yancoal Moolarben Coal Complex in the Mudgee Region of the western coalfields is within the boundary of the approved CWOREZ. This mine has approval to produce coal until 2028 and should not be permitted to expand into new areas to extract more fossil fuel.</p> <p>Coal mining operations are being severely impacted by extreme weather events causing difficult production management.</p> <p>Climate threats to infrastructure such as the rail link and port facilities, plus risks from heavy rainfall, bushfire and storms on mine sites is already causing major disruption to operations. A transition away from coal mining under current approvals should be a key focus of the NZC</p>