2025 consultation

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2025 consultation questions

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?	Meaningful progress toward climate action continues to be obstructed by entrenched vested interests. Powerful fossil fuel companies and aligned corporate entities exert disproportionate influence over both state and federal governments through lobbying, political donations, and policy capture. This has created a governance environment where decisions often prioritise the profitability of extractive industries over the health, safety, and long-term wellbeing of citizens and ecosystems. For the commission to respond effectively, it must acknowledge these power imbalances and work to insulate its work from such pressures. Transparency, public engagement, and a commitment to independent, evidence-based policymaking are crucial to ensuring that the commission's outcomes reflect the public interest, not the agenda of a few powerful actors.
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?	To drive the shifts needed for a successful net zero transition and to ensure meaningful climate change mitigation and adaptation, the commission must lead with an inclusive, transparent, and science-driven approach. Engaging across the community means creating space for a broad range of voices, particularly those who are often underrepresented in policymaking, First Nations communities, young people, regional populations, and those already facing the frontlines of climate impacts. The commission must elevate and prioritise the voices of climate scientists, whose expertise provides the foundation for evidence-based decision-making. This means embedding scientific advisory panels into all stages of policy development, ensuring that strategies are aligned with the latest climate modelling and risk assessments. Community engagement must go beyond consultation, it should be a two-way dialogue. The commission can host public forums, regional workshops, and online platforms for feedback that empower communities to co-design solutions. Special emphasis should be placed on listening to those with lived experience of climate impacts, such as farmers dealing with prolonged drought, coastal residents facing erosion, and Indigenous custodians with generations of ecological knowledge. Additionally, the commission should invest in public education campaigns to raise awareness about the benefits of the net zero transition, economic opportunities, improved public health, energy independence, and combat misinformation often driven by vested interests. Partnering with local councils, schools, universities, and community organisations can help tailor messages to different regions and demographics, ensuring relevance and cultural sensitivity.

	Finally, building accountability into the process through public reporting, independent oversight, and clear benchmarks will help maintain trust and momentum. By acting as a bridge between science, policy, and people, the commission can help foster a climate movement that is inclusive, resilient, and ultimately transformative.
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?	The commission should prioritise building trust through genuine, long-term relationships with First Nations communities. This involves engaging with Traditional Owners, Elders, and local leaders to understand their perspectives and knowledge systems. Incorporating Indigenous voices into decision-making processes ensures that climate strategies are culturally appropriate and effective. Listening to and prioritising the voices of climate scientists and Indigenous knowledge holders is crucial. Indigenous peoples possess unique knowledge systems, innovations, and practices that have been passed down through generations and have allowed different cultures and communities to live sustainably, emphasising the balance between humans and the natural world. The commission should establish advisory panels comprising both Indigenous and scientific experts to guide climate action initiatives.
4. What additional mechanisms, support, or incentives can meaningfully empower and enhance First Nations people's involvement in climate mitigation, adaptation and environmental stewardship?	The commission should prioritise building trust through genuine, long-term relationships with First Nations communities. This involves engaging with Traditional Owners, Elders, and local leaders to understand their perspectives and knowledge systems. Incorporating Indigenous voices into decision-making processes ensures that climate strategies are culturally appropriate and effective. Listening to and prioritising the voices of climate scientists and Indigenous knowledge holders is crucial. Indigenous peoples possess unique knowledge systems, innovations, and practices that have been passed down through generations and have allowed different cultures and communities to live sustainably, emphasising the balance between humans and the natural world. The commission should establish advisory panels comprising both Indigenous and scientific experts to guide climate action initiatives.
5. What additional information and evidence should the commission consider when assessing progress towards NSW's targets for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions?	To read the IPCC reports. The IPCC prepares comprehensive Assessment Reports about knowledge on climate change, its causes, potential impacts and response options, and to ACT on this research. https://www.ipcc.ch/report/special-report-on-climate-change-and-cities/ and to note 'Climate crisis on track to destroy capitalism, warns top insurer'

	https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/apr/03/climate-crisis-on-track-to-destroy-capitalism-warns-allianz-insurer"
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?	Immediate mobilisation of more solar panels on homes and businesses, incentive install batteries, subsidising EV uptake, taxing big polluting vehicles taking over the roads, and quickly phasing out fossil fuels.
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?	Absolutely not, the public conversation on this is muddied by the Murdoch media.
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?	The most effective approaches to accelerate rapid decarbonisation across freight and passenger transport involve a multi-pronged strategy combining regulatory reform, infrastructure investment, industry incentives, and behavioural change. Electrification of vehicle fleets, particularly heavy freight and public transport, must be prioritised, supported by a statewide network of fast-charging stations and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure in strategic freight corridors. Strong emissions standards and fuel efficiency targets can drive market transformation, while financial incentives, such as subsidies for zero-emission vehicles and tax breaks for fleet operators, will ease the transition. Investing in rail freight and active transport alternatives can reduce reliance on high-emission road freight and short car trips. Government procurement can also play a pivotal role by mandating zero-emissions transport in public contracts. Crucially, clear long-term policy signals and coordinated planning across jurisdictions are needed to provide certainty for industry and accelerate investment in clean transport technologies.
10. What specific actions or policies could increase uptake of emissions reduction strategies in agriculture,	Short-term actions include: Direct incentives for farmers to adopt low-emission practices such as improved manure management, feed additives that reduce methane (e.g. Asparagopsis), precision fertiliser application, and rotational grazing.

both in the short and long term?	Subsidies or grants to support the adoption of renewable energy (e.g. solar-powered irrigation, bioenergy systems) and low-emissions machinery on farms. Rewarding farmers for soil carbon sequestration, reforestation, and conservation agriculture. Knowledge-sharing platforms to disseminate best practices and provide training through extension services, universities, and industry groups. Long-term strategies should focus on: Investing in R&D to advance climate-smart technologies such as methane-inhibiting livestock feeds, climate-resilient crop varieties, and digital tools for emissions tracking. Land use reform and agroecological planning to integrate tree planting, biodiversity corridors, and regenerative agriculture as core elements of rural land management. National emissions targets for agriculture, co-designed with industry, to create clear goals while supporting a just transition. Education and succession planning, ensuring the next generation of farmers is equipped with the skills and incentives to prioritise sustainability."
11. Given the uncertainties in land-sector net emissions, how should NSW incorporate this sector into the states climate policy and emissions profile?	Stop the crazy amounts of land clearing across the state. We need old growth forests to support carbon storage, and too much of this is chopped down across the state. The New South Wales government has admitted that land clearing has increased threefold over the past decade, woodlands and grasslands are deteriorating, and 62% of vegetation in the state is now under pressure from too much fire. The NSW State of the Environment 2021 report, released every three years, paints a grim picture for land and freshwater ecosystems, which are under increasing threat from habitat destruction, invasive species and the climate crisis. The report provides an overview of the environmental issues facing the state including for biodiversity, waterways and the climate. The number of species in NSW threatened with extinction has grown by 18 (to 1,043) since the previous report in 2018 and

	64% of mammals are now considered to have suffered long-term reductions in their habitat range. Clearing of woody vegetation increased to an annual average of 35,000 hectares between 2017 and 2019, up from 13,000 hectares between 2009 and 2015. The rate of clearing for non-woody vegetation such as shrubs and grasses was even higher. Bird populations are declining, so too are freshwater fish populations, which were singled out as being in recovery poor condition across the state. More than 70% of endangered plants, animals and habitats in the state are threatened by invasive species, with pest animals and weeds costing the state's economy $170m and $1.8bn respectively each year.
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?	I have answered this.
13. What policies or programs at a sectoral level could complement the Safeguard Mechanism to support the accelerated decarbonisation of heavy industry in NSW?	To complement the Safeguard Mechanism and accelerate decarbonisation of heavy industry in NSW, sector-specific policies must focus on targeted support, clear standards, and infrastructure development. This includes the introduction of sectoral emissions benchmarks and tailored carbon reduction pathways for high-emitting industries such as steel, aluminium, cement, and chemicals. A state-run Industrial Transformation Fund could co-invest in low-carbon technologies like green hydrogen, doing away with dodgy carbon credits, and electrified processes, while also funding pilot projects and early deployment. Establishing Renewable Energy Industrial Precincts (REIPs) in key industrial hubs such as the Hunter and Illawarra regions would enable access to clean, affordable electricity and shared infrastructure. Procurement policies that prioritise low-carbon materials in public works can also drive demand for greener industrial outputs, creating market confidence and incentivising decarbonisation.
14. What measures could accelerate industrial heat electrification in NSW, where technology is viable?	NSW can implement a combination of financial incentives, regulatory frameworks, and infrastructure support. Capital grants, low-interest loans, and tax credits should be made available to help industries transition from fossil fuel-based heat systems to electric alternatives, such as high-temperature heat pumps and electric boilers. Time-of-use electricity pricing and demand response incentives can encourage industries to operate during periods of high renewable generation, reducing costs and supporting grid stability. Investment in grid upgrades and transmission infrastructure is also critical to ensure reliable energy supply for electrified processes. Establishing technical advisory services and demonstration projects can help de-risk

	adoption by sharing knowledge and proving the commercial viability of electrification technologies across various sectors.
15. What short to medium term measures could be prioritised to address the systemic challenges regarding waste generation and resource recovery?	In the short to medium term, addressing systemic challenges in waste generation and resource recovery in NSW requires a shift toward a circular economy through stronger policy levers, investment in infrastructure, and public engagement. Priority measures should include implementing extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes across more product categories, mandating recycled content in packaging, and banning problematic single-use plastics beyond current targets. Scaling up local recycling and reprocessing capacity especially for organics, construction waste, and complex plastics is essential, supported by incentives for innovation in material reuse and design for disassembly. Education campaigns must be expanded to reduce contamination and improve household and commercial source separation. Importantly, NSW should advocate for and align with international efforts such as the development of a global plastics treaty to address the unchecked proliferation of plastic pollution, ensuring shared accountability across the lifecycle of materials and harmonising standards to prevent waste dumping in less regulated regions.
16. How could transparency of how coal mines meet their Safeguard Mechanism obligations be improved?	Transparency can be significantly improved by mandating real-time public reporting of emissions data, abatement measures, and offset use through an accessible, centralised platform managed by an independent regulator. The Safeguard Mechanism could require detailed disclosures on the types, sources, and locations of offsets used, including whether they are domestic or international, and the specific abatement technologies implemented on-site. Regular third-party audits, coupled with community and Traditional Owner consultation processes, would also increase accountability. Publishing compliance reports and benchmarking performance against industry averages would further help the public, investors, and regulators assess whether coal mines are making genuine progress toward emissions reductions.
17. What measures would lead to coal mines prioritising on-site abatement over offsetting?	To drive coal mines toward prioritising on-site abatement, the government should tighten the rules on offset use under the Safeguard Mechanism such as capping allowable offsets or introducing a declining limit over time while increasing the cost and scrutiny of offset purchases. Introducing differentiated Safeguard baselines that reward sites achieving genuine emissions reductions and penalise high-offset dependence can provide direct financial incentives. Additionally, offering grants or low-interest financing for methane capture, electrification of operations, and process improvements can reduce the capital barrier to on-site solutions. Making on-site abatement the more economically and reputationally attractive option, backed by stricter offset integrity standards, will shift the focus toward real, local emissions cuts.
18. What measures should be considered	Beyond the Safeguard Mechanism, a suite of targeted measures should be considered to reduce emissions in the resources

beyond the Safeguard Mechanism to reduce emissions of the resources sector, particularly methane emissions, to meet NSW's emissions reduction targets?	sector, particularly methane, to help NSW meet its emissions reduction targets. First, the state should implement stringent methane monitoring and reporting requirements for all resource operations, including coal and gas extraction, with the use of advanced technologies like satellite surveillance, aerial drones, and continuous emissions monitoring systems to detect and quantify methane leaks in real-time. Establishing clear methane reduction targets with deadlines backed by performance-based incentives would drive accountability. Furthermore, the introduction of mandatory methane abatement technologies, such as vapour recovery units, gas flaring minimisation, and methane capture systems, should be required for all new projects and phased into existing operations. Financial mechanisms like carbon pricing or a specific methane levy could help incentivise reductions by internalising the environmental costs of methane emissions. Supporting innovation in low-emissions technologies for the resources sector, such as low-emissions mining equipment and electrification of operations, would also further accelerate decarbonisation. Additionally, promoting the development of a robust carbon credit market for methane reduction projects, allowing resources companies to sell verified reductions, would provide a financial pathway to achieve deeper cuts while maintaining competitiveness. Public transparency of methane emissions, through regularly updated emissions data and independent verification, would enhance stakeholder trust and ensure the sector is held accountable for meeting NSW's ambitious climate goals.
19. What additional measures could accelerate electrification and increase energy efficiency of new and existing buildings?	To accelerate electrification and improve energy efficiency in buildings, a combination of stronger building codes, financial incentives, and supportive infrastructure is necessary. Tightening building energy performance standards for both new and existing buildings, including mandatory electric-ready requirements and high-efficiency heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, would push the industry towards low-carbon construction. There also needs to be an uptake of passive house standards as to lower overall energy use. Financial incentives such as rebates or low-interest loans for retrofitting existing buildings with energy-efficient appliances, insulation, and heat pumps can ease the financial burden of transitioning. Additionally, offering grants for the installation of solar panels, battery storage, and electric vehicle chargers in residential and commercial properties can encourage electrification. Streamlining permitting processes and creating partnerships with utilities to enable grid upgrades and smart infrastructure can also facilitate widespread adoption. Public education campaigns that highlight the long-term cost savings and health benefits of electrified homes would further drive demand for sustainable buildings.
20. How could social equity be better addressed in the	This can be achieved by providing targeted subsidies and financing options for retrofitting and electrification in disadvantaged areas, such as discounted or income-based rebates for energy-efficient appliances, insulation, and

transition to an electrified built environment?	renewable energy installations. Ensuring that workers in traditional industries such as gas and fossil fuel trades have access to retraining programs and fair wage transitions into green jobs is critical. Policies should prioritise equitable access to new technologies, ensuring that the benefits of electrification, such as lower energy bills and improved air quality, are felt by all communities, especially those historically burdened by energy poverty. Community engagement in the design of electrification programs, with a focus on culturally appropriate outreach and support, will help build trust and ensure that the needs of these communities are central to the transition.
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?	A more resilient NSW in the context of climate change means a state that is not only prepared to withstand the impacts of climate extremes, such as bushfires, floods, and heatwaves, but one that also fosters climate justice by addressing the disproportionate effects of these changes on vulnerable communities. Climate justice ensures that frontline communities, including Indigenous peoples, low-income households, and those in regional and rural areas, have the resources, support, and voice they need to adapt effectively. It also requires a focus on equitable solutions, such as affordable access to renewable energy, sustainable housing, and disaster recovery systems. The immediate phase of adaptation should focus on strengthening the resilience of these communities through proactive measures, such as early-warning systems, climate-resilient infrastructure, and comprehensive support for local economies transitioning away from climate-vulnerable sectors. These actions must be underpinned by a commitment to reducing emissions, ensuring that adaptation is aligned with broader climate goals and does not perpetuate inequalities. By centering climate justice, NSW can build a more inclusive, fair, and resilient future for all.
24. What additional information and evidence should the commission consider when assessing progress towards the adaptation objective?	IPCC reports and the voices of climate scientists.
25. How can adaptation planning better use the	

NSW Government's climate change projections (NARCliM)?	
26. What other information or tools are needed to support decision-makers in NSW?	CLIMATE SCIENTISTS.
27. What initiatives should the commission consider in assessing NSW's preparation and responses to extreme heat and humidity events in NSW?	The work and campaigning of Sweltering Cities https://swelteringcities.org/
Are there any other pieces of evidence or feedback you would like to add?	