

## 2025 consultation

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### Disclaimer

This document is a submission to the Net Zero Commission’s 2025 consultation. As part of the consultation process, the commission has committed to publishing the submissions it receives. Submissions do not represent the views of the commission.

## 2025 consultation questions

<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p>Our family farm in Putty, NSW, has been burned out AND flooded three times in the past six years. My family has spent months volunteering to fight fires, and we have spent hundreds of thousands on recovery.</p> <p>Fires and floods have damaged or destroyed millions of dollars of infrastructure- making access difficult or impossible for long periods.</p> <p>Insurance is unaffordable, unviable, or unavailable for local businesses and families.</p> <p>Climate change increases production losses and food production costs, which are ultimately passed on to all consumers, i.e., everyone in the Australian community.</p> <p>At the same time, energy costs are skyrocketing. It's a lose-lose.</p>
<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p>We need an intensive rollout of small-scale community networks of solar generation and storage. Microgrids will ensure that when fires and floods occur, power is not interrupted, while carbon-free energy is generated.</p> <p>More wind farms! The NIMBYs blocking the development of wind farming are informed by bogus science, promoted by the fossil fuel industry. This means that community education and tough action against the blatant misinformation campaigns must be taken. Political freedom is not a licence to lie. Legislative reform to support renewable energy generation is needed. Where local governments block approvals or require changes that make new projects unviable, the state government needs the capacity to over-ride them.</p>
<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p>The government must meaningfully fund indigenous organisations to provide their communities with effective mechanisms by which they can engage in the issue. This means lifting up ALL indigenous people, not only issue- specific causes.</p>
<p><b>4. What additional mechanisms, support, or incentives can meaningfully empower and enhance First</b></p>	<p>To improve our state's climate mitigation and environmental stewardship, we must increase the direct control of indigenous peoples over land.</p>

<b>Nations people's involvement in climate mitigation, adaptation and environmental stewardship?</b>	
<b>5. What additional information and evidence should the commission consider when assessing progress towards NSW's targets for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions?</b>	The commission must consider exported carbon emissions, not only those generated within the state. NSW sends millions of tonnes of carbon offshore to be burned every month. This is our responsibility, moral and material. We need to shift our economy from extractive to generative. The opportunity for future generations is not in coal, but in renewables, knowledge, and a sustainable environment.
<b>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?</b>	<p>State legislation to remove local government road blocks is needed.</p> <p>State legislation to require all new homes to have solar and storage, with appropriate support.</p> <p>Increase state taxes on ICE vehicles with an aggressive progressive tax applied to registration of vehicles based on engine size. This will help not only emissions, but also safety and reduce road damage. Price drives behaviour. If ICE vehicles become too costly, and where equitable support is provided to lower SES communities to make the switch, positive change will occur.</p>
<b>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?</b>	Given the prevalence of misinformation in the energy and climate change space, the government must actively counter falsehoods, with state and federal governments working together to take aggressive action against misinformation in every forum it occurs. The federal government must be pressured to enact legislative reform to ensure truth in political and general advertising, and to prevent social media platforms from disseminating climate change disinformation.
<b>8. Are First Nations communities adequately engaged and included in sharing the benefits of the transition? What more could be done, and by whom?</b>	<p>First Nations people are fighting to survive, to keep their kids out of prison and a roof over their head, with a third of NSW First Nations people living in poverty according to the 2021 AIHW report. It would be unreasonable and unrealistic to imagine that people in such circumstances are adequately engaged and included.</p> <p>The NSW government must support the needs of the indigenous community first, then look to providing renewable energy for housing and communities, the electrification of existing housing, and support for EV transport as a start to provide communities with a tangible demonstration of the benefits of transition.</p>
<b>9. What are likely to prove the most effective approaches to accelerate rapid decarbonisation across freight and passenger transport?</b>	<p>Increase taxes on private vehicles.</p> <p>Implement congestion charges for private vehicles.</p> <p>Restore freight rail networks. For instance, I am from Merriwa, in the Upper Hunter. When I was young, all our wheat was</p>

	<p>freighted on the rail line, which ran from 1917 to 1988. It is insanity that every tonne of Hunter grain that feeds our country is now transported by road. Renegotiate the Lower Hunter rail agreement to provide for the shared use between coal and agricultural freight.</p> <p>Reinstate and restore the tram routes that operated until the outrageous destruction of the tram network that existed until the 50s. I recently passed work on Bronte Road in Waverley, Sydney, which revealed the steel tracks beneath the tarmac. What a waste, the solution already existed and can be renewed.</p> <p>Promote and support bike use, including e-bikes. They are unpopular with car-lovers and the frail, but with better bike lanes and regulation, these provide an efficient, healthy and valuable means of private transportation.</p>
<p><b>10. What specific actions or policies could increase uptake of emissions reduction strategies in agriculture, both in the short and long term?</b></p>	<p>Stop private land deforestation. AI and satellite imagery make it easy to pinpoint destruction, but nothing is done. I have been horrified to see the loss of habitat in the Putty area, where we have a farm, as well as at friends' properties all over the state. Support farmers in improving their farming practices; subsidise soil protection measures, such as contour banks, reforestation initiatives, regenerative farming techniques, and legislate to reduce or end reliance on superphosphate and organochemicals.</p>
<p><b>11. Given the uncertainties in land-sector net emissions, how should NSW incorporate this sector into the states climate policy and emissions profile?</b></p>	<p>Carbon and environmental offsets are inherently unreliable and deceptive. The only certain path forward is to legislate to prevent emissions and hold polluters accountable.</p> <p>The agricultural sector should simultaneously be supported in taking measures to improve emissions and enhance carbon storage in soil, grasslands, and forests; however, these gains should not be included in overall carbon emission reduction. I know several rural investors who are being paid substantial sums to refrain from clearing land that was never intended to be cleared - the system is being gamed.</p>
<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p>Increase First Nations' access to, and direct control of, land. End the Forestry Corporation of NSW and hand back the lands to their rightful indigenous owners. With massive subsidies (circa \$50 million per annum), it still can't turn a profit, costing NSW taxpayers \$29 million last year.</p> <p>Give First Nations people a voice in legislative and planning. Direct consultation with all major groups, and those communities immediately impacted by decisions such as coal and gas approvals, roads and infrastructure, and housing.</p>

<b>13. What policies or programs at a sectoral level could complement the Safeguard Mechanism to support the accelerated decarbonisation of heavy industry in NSW?</b>	<p>End the option for emitters to offset with carbon credits. It is clear that the carbon credits purchased are unreliable at best, and junk, too often, at worst. There needs to be meaningful legislative action to drive the transition to low and no-emission production.</p>
<b>14. What measures could accelerate industrial heat electrification in NSW, where technology is viable?</b>	<p>Provide low-cost loans to businesses seeking to invest in heat electrification. Legislate a phase-out/phase-in requirement for industry.</p>
<b>15. What short to medium term measures could be prioritised to address the systemic challenges regarding waste generation and resource recovery?</b>	<p>Legislate renewable packaging requirements for suppliers and retailers. I am wildly frustrated when I receive a package that is still wrapped in polystyrene when cardboard is an easy substitute. Why are there no legal requirements for packaging to be sustainable?</p> <p>Legislate to require councils have minimum recovery quantities. This will support improved performance, so desperately needed when landfill is almost full.</p> <p>Legislate to require producers are responsible for their products and this is clearly communicated to consumers with easy mechanisms for repair or disposal. Oral B electric toothbrushes, for instance, have no clearly communicated information on product disposal. This is repeated with the hundred different rechargeable items in every household. These items should be the responsibility of companies through the whole lifecycle.</p> <p>Educate! Food waste and over-consumption is everywhere, while at the same time we are suffering a cost of living crisis. We need to move our economy away from consumption to experience based value generation.</p>
<b>16. How could transparency of how coal mines meet their Safeguard Mechanism obligations be improved?</b>	<p>Phase out offsets within 10 years. They are junk and don't work. In the interim:</p> <p>Facilities must demonstrate practical steps and/or investments in train to genuinely reduce emissions before being able to purchase SMCs or ACCUs to meet their regulated baselines.</p> <p>Facilities must use SMCs to account for any remaining emissions before purchasing ACCUs, given their more direct equivalence to the type of emissions produced within the scheme.</p>

	<p>Use of offsets will be progressively phased down to a set percentage of a facility's total baseline following an initial period to enable business planning and investment.</p> <p>All funding provided to facilities through the Powering the Regions Fund must be used to support business transformation by investing in genuine process and/or technology changes. Public funds should not be spent on purchasing offsets or pursuing technologies that have failed to demonstrate a clear emissions reduction benefit, despite large amounts of prior funding, such as some carbon capture and storage technologies in the fossil fuel sector.</p>
<b>17. What measures would lead to coal mines prioritising on-site abatement over offsetting?</b>	<p>Phase out offsets.</p> <p>Implement mandatory requirements for methane drainage and capture technologies at coal mines, especially those with high emissions, to drive on-site abatement.</p> <p>Provide greater financial incentives for pre-drainage of methane from coal seams, including before mining operations commence, to reduce fugitive emissions.</p> <p>Expand the scope of eligible projects to include the use of captured methane for electricity generation, fuel for mining vehicles, or other industrial processes</p>
<b>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?</b>	<p>Tax emissions! We need a carbon tax now.</p> <p>Enact and enforce stricter regulations on methane emissions, including reporting requirements and performance standards.</p> <p>Expand the Safeguard Mechanism to include more facilities and sectors, and lower the threshold for coverage to increase the number of emitters subject to emissions reduction obligations.</p>
<b>19. What additional measures could accelerate electrification and increase energy efficiency of new and existing buildings?</b>	<p>Legislate higher standards in new buildings. This may mean overriding local government LEPs with State legislation. Why do we still have seas of black roofs in heat islands like Penrith? Why are insulation standards so low? Mandate HVAC technology in new buildings. Expand funding for retrofitting. Stop approving new developments in areas affected by floods, fires and heatwaves.</p>
<b>20. How could social equity be better addressed in the</b>	<p>Offer green jobs programs for low SES communities.</p> <p>Provide financial support for low SES households to retrofit homes</p>

<b>transition to an electrified built environment?</b>	<p>Retrofit all social housing with renewable energy and electrification.</p> <p>Ensure quality public transport is available in low SES communities.</p> <p>Make public transport free for all people in NSW.</p>
<b>21. What approaches could NSW consider to eliminate refrigerants with a GWP &gt;10 from buildings?</b>	<p>Implement a mandatory requirement for new developments and retrofits to use natural refrigerants (GWP sub 2).</p> <p>Offer (income assessed) tax incentives to encourage the retrofitting of existing systems with energy-efficient components, like improved compressors, heat exchangers, and fans, to reduce overall energy consumption and refrigerant usage.</p> <p>Legislate energy-efficient design principles in new construction to minimise the overall cooling load and refrigerant requirements.</p> <p>Legislate and enforce strict end-of-life requirements for refrigerants</p>
<b>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?</b>	<p>Stop consultation with the polluters. The vested interest is obvious. The idea that industry is an equivalent stakeholder to the community or environmental organisations is nonsense. Instead, work with the leading scientific and economic expertise and look to the existing framework implemented by global leaders in net-zero transition, such as Denmark and Sweden. The wheel doesn't need reinventing, the science exists.</p>
<b>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?</b>	<p>No new building in flood and fire zones.</p> <p>Strict regulation on building standards to withstand extreme heat, cold, flooding and fires.</p> <p>No new emitters, including coal and gas.</p> <p>Support for skilled, green jobs.</p> <p>Reforestation and rehabilitation of existing forests.</p> <p>Greener cities - native revegetation requirements legislated at a state-wide level to ensure canopy cover helps cool our streets and homes.</p> <p>Strict enforcement of vegetation preservation requirements.</p> <p>No support for development vulnerable to coastal erosion. It's in the bible - don't build your house on sand.</p>
<b>24. What additional information and evidence should the commission consider when assessing progress towards the adaptation objective?</b>	<p>The insurance industry is always informative. Actuaries have been modelling climate change for decades</p> <p>Institute a non-partisan government panel to monitor climate change progress and develop and policy responses that outlast the electoral cycle.</p> <p>Ensure there are clear accountability measures that are communicated and enforced at all levels of government.</p>

<p><b>25. How can adaptation planning better use the NSW Government's climate change projections (NARClIM)?</b></p>	<p>NARClIM is unknown outside of government and industry-specific sectors. Communicating its mission and research to the wider community would be a good start in achieving meaningful engagement with, and accountability for, its projections.</p>
<p><b>26. What other information or tools are needed to support decision-makers in NSW?</b></p>	<p>The government needs to work with the major parties to develop a conscience-vote bill on climate change that requires all political actors to acknowledge the urgent need for climate action and a non-partisan consensus to invest in carbon reduction and climate change mitigation. While there are cheap political points to score, tediously frequent electoral cycles, meaningful action is unlikely. Politicians owe it to our kids and our futures.</p>
<p><b>27. What initiatives should the commission consider in assessing NSW's preparation and responses to extreme heat and humidity events in NSW?</b></p>	<p>Mitigate the impacts on the most vulnerable. Ensure that the elderly are monitored and supported to access cooling. Communicate with the community in advance. Measure and publish outcomes in hospitals and morgues - these are clear metrics of impact and require accountability.</p> <p>At a macro-level, end homelessness. We did it during the pandemic; it's possible and the only morally defensible action in a state as privileged as NSW. The economic benefits of housing our most vulnerable community members are clearly understood and measurable.</p>
<p><b>Are there any other pieces of evidence or feedback you would like to add?</b></p>	<p>Time to stop the talk and walk the walk. I was learning about climate change in the 80's. It's a little late for handwringing now. We need action to STOP climate pollution. Mitigation and offsets are not going to save our children and grandchildren from the catastrophic economic, environmental and social impacts of inaction with a bit of greenwashing to keep the electorate quiet. Communicate the COSTS. We are all paying a bomb for insurance NOW because of climate change, even if our roof isn't ripped off in a cyclone or our shop flooded. We are all sweltering through summers, staying inside when air quality is dangerous from fires and worse. We are all paying more for food and remember the \$10 iceberg. There's more community support for climate action than politicians realise.</p>