2025 consultation

Submission type	Guided submission
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Response ID	273537

Disclaimer

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?	The acceleration in frequency of extreme climate events has been scientifically identified as being exacerbated by human-induced climate change. I have been impacted by the fires of 2019 and the floods of 2022, the extent of which has surpassed all of my previous experiences of bushfire and flood
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?	2. Fugitive coal mine methane emissions are under-reported and underestimated. Methane is 84-87x more potent than CO2 over 20 years and coal mine fugitive emissions are likely under estimated by at least half, but this isn't accounted for in company estimates of their scope 1 emissions - and must be. The Common Capital report found that methane emissions from coal are predicted to rise by 75% by 2035 in NSW, despite the International Energy Agency saying they must reduce by 75% by 2030 if the world is to avoid climate chaos.
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?	By being willing to listen ... and then engage as equal partners to determine the most appropriate courses of action.
4. What additional mechanisms, support, or incentives can meaningfully empower and enhance First Nations people's involvement in climate mitigation, adaptation and environmental stewardship?	Funding to support First Nations peoples involvement in climate mitigation strategies both on the ground and in theoretical research and engagement.
5. What additional information and evidence should the commission consider when assessing progress towards NSW's targets for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions?	Ensure that corporations do not have ready access and influence upon decision-makers

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?	Infrastructure funding schemes that encourage investment in alternate forms of electricity generation and storage
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?	Households get 6cents per kilowatt hour for electricity they generate whist paying 29cents per kilowatt hour for electricity they draw from the grid. This imbalance is inequitable!
8. Are First Nations communities adequately engaged and included in sharing the benefits of the transition? What more could be done, and by whom?	Education and provision of opportunities for First Nations people to engage
9. What are likely to prove the most effective approaches to accelerate rapid decarbonisation across freight and passenger transport?	Rail infrastructure needs updating and enhanced on-loading/ off-loading terminals for easy access and quick turnaround times
10. What specific actions or policies could increase uptake of emissions reduction strategies in agriculture, both in the short and long term?	Restrictions on cattle feedlots and research into methane mitigation across the entire agriculture sector
11. Given the uncertainties in land-sector net emissions, how should NSW incorporate this sector into the states climate policy and emissions profile?	There are currently few incentives to encourage landholders to choose environmental systems. Economic rationalism plays a significant role in high-emission agricultural practices. Financial incentives for ecologically regenerative and conservation-based land practices could be much more supported by government
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	Land managed for the environment values providing incentives across large swathes of rural NSW could even the balance between environmentally damaging land/agricultural practices and ecologically positive practices. First Nations knowledge such as cultural burning can play a large part in the management of grazing lands and marginal farmlands.

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?	Climate change needs to be factored into any approvals for industrial projects. Climate Offsets are not giving the value that was intended. Damage to the environment at site A cannot be rectified by conservation measures at Site B. Even if it is like for like ecologically, the net loss is unavoidable.
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?	Whole of cycle resource usage needs to become the standard by which manufacturers deliver products. There can be no end of use systems. All materials must be recyclable and reusable.
16. How could transparency of how coal mines meet their Safeguard Mechanism obligations be improved?	The current regulatory system is not working to prevent major greenhouse gas emissions from coal mine expansions. Coal companies are applying for projects that do not even commence until after 2030, but the NSW Government is progressing them through the planning system regardless, letting companies "bank" approvals. The Safeguard Mechanism cannot be relied upon to drive emissions reductions from coal projects in NSW required to meet 2030 and 2035 targets.
17. What measures would lead to coal mines prioritising on-site abatement over offsetting?	The 19 proposed coal projects in NSW could generate ~1.7 billion tonnes of lifecycle emissions - over 15 times NSW's annual emissions. Despite this massive impact, these emissions are not being properly considered in planning decisions. They must be given full weight under the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023 to ensure decisions align with NSW's climate goals.
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?	Set strong coal sectoral targets for 2030 and 2035 and mandate methane abatement requirements to reduce emissions from existing coal mines.

19. What additional measures could accelerate electrification and increase energy efficiency of new and existing buildings?	Invest deeply and long-term in community-centred, genuinely co-designed resilience planning, in climate-ready health, housing and disaster support services.
20. How could social equity be better addressed in the transition to an electrified built environment?	The introduction of solar electricity hubs in suburbs from which residents can purchase electricity whether or not they can afford solar panels on their own roofs.
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?	Localised electricity generation infrastructure, support for the environment as a whole rather than being expendable due to economic and development pressures
24. What additional information and evidence should the commission consider when assessing progress towards the adaptation objective?	Refrain from giving power and influence to industrial lobbyists
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?	

27. What initiatives should the commission consider in assessing NSW's preparation and responses to extreme heat and humidity events in NSW?	
Are there any other pieces of evidence or feedback you would like to add?	