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?	Impact #1: The need to address Climate change has caused a lot of confusion, uncertainty, and despondency in our community. Missinformation has exacerbated this problem. Impact #2: Climate Change and the call for rapid change has divided the community along political lines so that governments are scared of making effective plans to deal with the problem Impact #3: To me these are on display everywhere for those who wish to see. Irreversable damage to the environment, rapid coastal erosion, loss of animal habitat, rising temperatures, loss of glacial ice, to name a few. Commission Response:
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?	Commission Response 1. Monitor and report every year on progress to established targets. Reports to summarise on a ONE PAGE pictorial explanation of progress and comments. 2. Annual widespread media availability of the Report and separately the ONE PAGE summary 3. Invite community response and suggestions for dealing with Net Zero goals 4. Walk the Talk - create Case Histories of how the community (and the Commission) is meeting the need for action and publish these widely 5. Lobby widely for community, govt, businesses, and individuals to show their support 6. Institute a mechanism for annual participation of all stakeholders to participate in a series of small open conferences designed to make it easy for interested parties to have a say.
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?	[redacted]
4. What additional mechanisms, support, or incentives can meaningfully empower and enhance First Nations people's involvement in climate mitigation, adaptation	[redacted]

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?	It is essential the we know how we are travelling towars meeting our Net Zero Goal. There is sufficient suitable evidence available right now - it just needs to be formatted in a manner that we can all easily digest. In my experience there is currently almost no understanding by stakeholders for the level of action necessary across the wide range of sectors to reach the goal of net zero. The information to make this judgement is just too diverse and overwhelming for most stakeholders to embrace. The Commission could provide a valuable lead in this regard by describing the necessary level of activity for each Sector in a comprehensive summary of available mechanisms. Goals should be embedded in the Sector plans and progress reported annually with a clear indication of progress and trends to meet the Goals.
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?	Figure 2 clearly shows that the current rate of generation commitment must be dramatically improved to meet Net Zero. Options: 1. Recognise that this transition we have committed to will cost a lot more that we have been led to believe. 2. Increase the benefits to encourage more support from affected stakeholders. 3. Encourage early stakeholder participation in the decision making process.
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?	I suggest that the current measures be made more attractive to affected stakeholders and that the actual high level of commitment required to reach Net Zero be clearly communicated to everyone.
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 rapid conversion of all transport to electric power is the easiest path down this route. Well considered Govt incentives will be need to foster struggling enterprises. NOTE: Whenever financial subsidies are considered there is another opportunity for uncroupulous actors to rort the system. All to often there are obvious loopholes in regulations that can reddily be exploited. To minimise this risk there needs to be an INDEPENDENT Rorts Panel to look at all potential shortcomings in any regulations before they are gazetted.

10. What specific actions or policies could increase uptake of emissions reduction strategies in agriculture, both in the short and long term?	1. Increased incentives 2. Early stakehold participation in the planning process 3. Clear information to encourage the most effective farming practices for minimising climate impacts 4. Simple fencepost signage on all farms throughout the country to display to the community the measures it is undertaking to reduce emissions 5. Application of the Rorts Panel to minimise contrary outcomes - always necessary
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?	Waste Generation There is a lot to do in this area: 1. Develop and institute a comprehensive Plastics management program to reduce the quantity of waste, to manage the proliferation of plastic in ocean pollution, and to manage the impact of microplastics on our health.

	2. Institute a regulation to make producers liable for end of life management- similar to schemes in Europe 3. Regulate to make products designed for easy repair by third parties 4. Hard plastic quantity reduction and regulation forcing a shift to alternatives 5. Where necessary provide financial incentives to facilitate suitable start-ups Resource Recovery 1. To minimise the use of landfill didposal we should embark on a distributed plan for waste to energy conversion. As well as disposing of up to 90% of the waste currently going to landfill it will generate electricity (and some heat if it can be used). This technology is widely used in Europe where emission standards are high. Australia currently has its head in the sand over this issue. 2. Provide incentives for existing landfills that can be retrofitted with methane recovery and used for generation 3. Soft plastics reduction, collection, and beneficial reuse - currently no plan 4. Where necessary provide financial incentives to facilitate suitable start-ups
16. How could transparency of how coal mines meet their Safeguard Mechanism obligations be improved?	
17. What measures would lead to coal mines prioritising on-site 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?	1. Rigorous annual and independent auditing and reporting 2. Regulation of emissions based on a carbon tax or equivalent basis. 3. Govt involvement in approval for new mines based on approving lower impact alternatives.
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?	The aim of this monitoring framework should be to inform everyone on an annual basis just how we are travelling and what we need to do to meet our2050 Net Zero goal. Framework indicies: 1. CO2e emission levels - TCO2e/yr - for significant sectors and State total 2. Coal fired generation - MWh/yr, TCO2e/yr 3. Gas fired generation - MWh/yr, TCO2e/yr 4. Solar generation - MWh/yr 5. Percent of Gas use vs Electricity use 6. Percentage of solar uptake - to identify potential benefit from avoiding gas use 7. Percentage of ICE and Electric vehicle uptake - to gauge emission reduction 8. Level of energy imported to Australia - TWh/yr 9. A widely available Report on progress and comments including a ONE PAGE pictorial summary for easy assimilation
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?	
24. What additional information and evidence should the commission consider when assessing progress towards the adaptation objective?	Adaption Observations 1. The impact and management of increasing Insurance risk costs must be urgently addressed 2. The management of liabilities for climate change damage is a huge problem. Compensation costs could become unmanageable for Councils and other stakeholders. 3. Energy usage by big users, particularly data centres, will need to be managed by Govt intervention 4. The environment impact of ever more wind farms, solar farms, and mining ventures will become very significant by 2050. This

	will require good management, community engagement, and include Govt regulation
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?	Offsets - what will count in 2050? It is inevitable that a measurement of carbon EMISSIONS in 2050 will not be zero and that some form of offsets will be needed to bring us to NET zero. There will need to be an accredited table of which offsets are available. Some observations: • Tree planting - this is a long term measure and will not bring much of a saving in emissions for the year in 2050. An what about loss in a fire. Who replants? • Sequestratation - must be certified to ensure it is permanent - who monitors? • Overseas sequestration? - should not be allowed to meet the intent of Net Zero in Australia? • Avoiding forest clearing - not a secure measure - open to rorts
27. What initiatives should the commission consider in assessing NSW's preparation and responses to extreme heat and humidity events in NSW?	1. Inform everyone of the predicted changes in heat and humidity and the possible impacts on a timeline 2. Suggest options for dealing with these extremes 3. Investigate posible liability in the event of grid power failure at a critical time 4. Prearrange for extensive media coverage to include exreme event warnings in weather forecasting
Are there any other pieces of evidence or feedback you would like to add?	I think to effectively deal with the impacts of Climate Change will need much more Government commitment. To enable this will need a high level of community support to endorse government action. The Commission will need to join other organisations to raise the level of community awareness - a very difficult task but absolutely critical in planning ahead. I suggest a well planned ongoing series of community forums that enable everyone to learn and contribute to short and long term planning may work.