

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?	<p>I believe I experience more frequent wild weather events and more hot days than I can recall experiencing 18 years ago when I arrived in Australia. I applaud the work of the commission in monitoring, reviewing and advising on progress towards the state's net zero target.</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>1) Advocating for a price on carbon. Highlighting to the average consumer how climate change is pushing up prices of everyday items, from insurance to consumer goods and that delaying climate action further will only bake in ongoing price increases. Only through pricing in carbon emissions which will result in shifts away from emissions heavy products and services, can we hope to hasten the reduction of GHG emissions.</p> <p>2) Showcasing examples of low carbon lifestyles that result in healthier more contented people.</p> <p>3) Demonstrating downward pressure on electricity prices that establishing V2G community virtual power plants will provide as the number of EVs increases and helps resource some of the peak electricity demand between 5-9pm.</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>1) Contact local Aboriginal Land Councils and go through elders to identify the knowledge holders best placed to provide insights on cultural IP and adaptation.</p> <p>2) Pay them for their time and IP.</p> <p>3) Acknowledge the contributors in published reports.</p> <p>4) Don't engage with them unless there is a clear path to implementation. No one wants to be engaged on a project that won't ever see the light of day.</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?	<p>A Voice to Parliament.</p> <p>A treaty. Show them that we see them as a key partner and their deep-time knowledge as a valuable contributor to helping Australians out of a jam. Elevate their contribution as being at least as valuable as those of industry peak bodies that secure concessions for their members.</p>
5. What additional information and evidence	<p>Ensure we consider the embodied emissions from goods entering the country and/or state. It's important that NSW's</p>

should the commission consider when assessing progress towards NSW's targets for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions?	'progress' doesn't just push the emissions and impact outside our drawn boundaries. A CBAM might work at a national level, but states should be lobbying the federal to implement such a measure.
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?	<p>Government could lease roof space on private buildings to install large scale solar (think warehouse and commercial office rooves) for grid connection.</p> <p>Government could pay an incentive for EV owners to connect V2G for daytime charging (to take off excess) and evening peak discharging to address duck curve.</p> <p>Government could similarly incentivise building owners to shift their demand for heating and cooling to earlier in the day to address duck curve - e.g. the work of Craig Roussac: https://new.gbca.org.au/case-studies/building/grid-interactive-efficient-buildings-paper/</p>
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'm not sure if they are. It's a tricky balance to strike between getting capital to invest in the outcomes wanted and ensuring all the benefit doesn't flow back to the investors. One of the split incentives of capitalism.
8. Are First Nations communities adequately engaged and included in sharing the benefits of the transition? What more could be done, and by whom?	Unsure.
9. What are likely to prove the most effective approaches to accelerate rapid decarbonisation across freight and passenger transport?	Could government green bonds or SLLs be floated to underwrite the investment in electrification of freight and public transportation fleets? It's well established that electric vehicles have a lower whole of life cost. If the upfront cost premium can be brought back to parity and the government investor paid back through lifecycle savings, in the same way an Energy Upgrade Agreement works, this could overcome the green premium to allow all fleet owners to electrify with haste. Note the low uptake of EUAs and craft a policy that resolves the barriers to EUA uptake.
10. What specific actions or policies could increase uptake of emissions reduction strategies in agriculture, both in the short and long term?	Put in place policy settings to establish local biofuels manufacturing to supply agricultural equipment with renewable fuels to use in their machinery whilst also providing an offtake opportunity for their bio-waste to be converted into fuel in a circular fashion.

	Continue to invest in innovation to reduce food waste along the supply chain as this creates an avoidable and potent GHG emission in methane from rotting food.
11. Given the uncertainties in land-sector net emissions, how should NSW incorporate this sector into the states climate policy and emissions profile?	Stop using LULUCF as a carbon sink. I worry it gives other industries a free pass to continue to emit as this source does the heavy lifting in terms of decarbonisation.
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?	<p>Back burning using traditional methods and principles.</p> <p>Engagement of First Nations rangers to monitor biodiversity and ecosystem health.</p> <p>Rewild as much as possible. Look at what China is achieving. https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/mar/14/how-china-led-way-water-soil-conservation.</p> <p>https://english.www.gov.cn/archive/statistics/202505/22/content_WS682ec2a6c6d0868f4e8f2bd1.html#:~:text=Moreover%2C%20national%20conservation%20and%20research,wildlife%20rescue%20and%20breeding%20centers.</p>
13. What policies or programs at a sectoral level could complement the Safeguard Mechanism to support the accelerated decarbonisation of heavy industry in NSW?	<p>A price on carbon plain and simple.</p> <p>It may be necessary for government to take a stake in companies averse to the commercial risk of decarbonising and then letting the dividends of such investments accrue back to taxpayers and citizens.</p>
14. What measures could accelerate industrial heat electrification in NSW, where technology is viable?	<p>In line with Energy Upgrade Agreements, SLL or green bonds that cover the initial capital outlay could enable industry to access long term savings from renewable electrified heat - out of which savings the initial investment is repaid.</p> <p>Alternatively, support for heat-as-a-service contracts that incentivise circular business models that enable a business to benefit from the initial investment in electrified industrial heat production.</p>
15. What short to medium term measures could be prioritised to address the systemic challenges regarding waste generation and resource recovery?	<p>Expand container deposit scheme to additional elements: milk jugs, cardboard boxes, soft plastics in order to incentivise domestic source separation to offer better resource recovery rates. Charging a fee for takeaway containers (like a price per plastic bag) may incentivise people to bring their own containers.</p> <p>Policy that drives Amazon and other online retailers to use re-useable packaging where boxes aren't left, but only the ordered items, might help drive a reduction in packaging waste.</p>

	Supermarkets are a huge source of packaging waste so any policy that drives them to offer more bulk food sales can reduce that element - provided the items in the bulk bins aren't just dumped out of other single use packages.
16. How could transparency of how coal mines meet their Safeguard Mechanism obligations be improved?	Accounting for the emissions associated with use of their product (e.g. combustion) should be part of their reporting.
17. What measures would lead to coal mines prioritising on-site abatement over offsetting?	Cost of offsets would need to be higher than cost of abatement.
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?	Price on carbon (including the methane multiplier).
19. What additional measures could accelerate electrification and increase energy efficiency of new and existing buildings?	<p>Policies that incentivise Passivhaus and other green building certifications to deliver higher quality, long lasting, healthy and energy efficient housing should be adopted.</p> <p>The cost premium could again be resolved through EUA style loans where the cost of paying back the loan comes out of the reduced cost of energy over the life of the building.</p>
20. How could social equity be better addressed in the transition to an electrified built environment?	<p>Prioritise government funding for electrifying social housing through retrofit legislation.</p> <p>Train up new electricians, I've noticed free TAFE placements, to help deliver the electrification of the economy.</p>
21. What approaches could NSW consider to eliminate refrigerants with a GWP >10 from buildings?	<p>This is a tricky one because we're now seeing that HFO refrigerants (GWP<10) contain PFAS and PFOA. So we want to avoid replacing one problem with another.</p> <p>NSW could prioritise the use of CO2 as a refrigerant within cooling equipment, ensuring the relevant health and safety protocols are in place to prevent CO2 build up from leakage in enclosed spaces.</p>
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?	Looking at buildings in particular: Buildings that are electrified, suitably insulated to not require lots of energy for heating and cooling, not built in the line of avoidable natural disasters - e.g. within flood plains, and designed for disassembly to enable future owners to claim the value of the parts the building is made of.
24. What additional information and evidence should the commission consider when assessing progress towards the adaptation objective?	
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?	<p>Places of respite being located in every community and well-marked to users of all levels of ability and senses (e.g. catering for deaf and blind as well as mobility impaired).</p> <p>Prioritising better building regulation so that buildings built or retrofitted from now on include the relevant interventions to efficiently deal with heat and humidity and keep occupants safe and comfortable.</p>
Are there any other pieces of evidence or feedback you would like to add?	Thank you for your work. I think we're at a moment in time when we're in the very midst of the transition that will deliver us from significant harm and in 50-100 years people will look back at this time and see it as a bit of a blip on the timeline. It's good that the Net Zero Commission exists to advocate on behalf of NSW during this period of rapid change.