

2025 consultation

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Net Zero Commission

Dear Commission members

Re: The wisdom of elders

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns with you about the impact of climate change on our planet.

I wish to address in particular the role of coal mining. As your Consultation Paper points out: “emissions from coal mining make up 97% of direct emissions from the resources sector”.

It is clear that there is a fundamental problem for our governments in aiming for Net Zero, while at the same time allowing the expansion of coal mining especially in NSW. These two things are clearly incompatible, or as my grandmother would say, “You cannot have your cake and eat it too”.

Not only do these mines emit carbon dioxide, but also leak the even more dangerous methane, whose superheating potential is nearly twice the warming potential of CO₂, and which is not properly accounted for in most studies.

It is vital that the full lifecycle emissions of a coal expansion be considered in every case, which should inevitably lead to a decision to block such projects.

Part of the solution is also to provide resources to the local communities to adapt to the changes that are required if we are to protect our “cake” (the health of the planet) properly.

As a concerned grandmother now myself, I would respectfully urge the Commission to:

- Publish a report that clearly acknowledges that coal mine expansions threaten climate targets;
- Set strong coal sector targets on emissions for 2030 and 2035, and mandate methane abatement ;
- Provide advice to the IPC on Moolarben and Hunter Valley Operations coal mine expansions.

I believe that we are at a critical point in human history. It is time to listen to wise voices.

Yours sincerely

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