

## 2025 consultation

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<b>Submitter</b>	Kiama Municipal Council
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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>Kiama Council experiences extreme rain events that result in localised flooding and damage to roads, parks and infrastructure. Being a coastal Council beneath an escarpment, we seek assistance in adapting and preventing the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Noting that in October, Category B Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements will be divested from Transport NSW, we are concerned that Reconstruction Authority does not have the staff or expertise to manage disaster funding in a timely manner. We seek assurance that and funding managers are capable and well-staffed to allow small Councils, in particular, to make meaningful use of disaster and resilience funding.</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>The commission seems to have a good grasp on the key matters of concern for the community in a transition to net zero energy supply. We believe the State hold the greatest responsibility to educate and support its population in the energy transition. Small Councils are not in the financial position to burden such a task.</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><b>4. What additional mechanisms, support, or incentives can meaningfully empower and enhance First Nations people's involvement in climate mitigation, adaptation and environmental stewardship?</b></p>	
<p><b>5. What additional information and evidence should the commission consider when assessing progress towards NSW's targets for reducing net</b></p>	

<b>greenhouse gas emissions?</b>	
<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>	Open-up community battery programs to third party managers other than gen-tailers. There is a demand for community, Council and other third-party owned and managed community batteries. This would add to the autonomy of community generated and managed electricity.
<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>	
<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>	
<b>9. What are likely to prove the most effective approaches to accelerate rapid decarbonisation across freight and passenger transport?</b>	<p>Kiama LGA constituents are typically affluent and live a long way from their workplace. This has resulted in many of our constituents driving to work, solo. There is significant demand in our LGA for an express train to Wollongong and Sydney, with minimal stops between.</p> <p>The southern portion of our LGA is accessed by a diesel train. Providing an electric train between Kiama and Bombaderry would vastly reduce emissions.</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>	Protection of riparian areas could significantly help with carbon capture, noting our LGA contains many large dairies and heavy-hoofed farms. The riparian portion of some of these catchments is heavily degraded, allowing soil and manure to run-off the land and into waterways, not only losing critical nutrients from the soil, but also resulting in poor water quality within parts of the creeks and estuaries, also a flood hazard. Best practice riparian programs may target soil-loss through vegetation planting and protection along waterways.
<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>	
<b>12. What specific actions could increase carbon storage and resilience of</b>	

<b>the existing carbon stock in the land sector and meaningfully enhance the application of First Nations people's knowledge and practices?</b>	
<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>	
<b>14. What measures could accelerate industrial heat electrification in NSW, where technology is viable?</b>	
<b>15. What short to medium term measures could be prioritised to address the systemic challenges regarding waste generation and resource recovery?</b>	<p>Council's Waste Management Strategy 2025 - 2030 has identified emissions reductions measures for waste in our LGA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual reduction in fuel consumption over the life of this Strategy.</li> <li>• Council waste management fleet demonstrating a transition to electric.</li> <li>• Minnamurra Waste and Recycling Facility transition to renewable energy.</li> <li>• Link Council's Waste Strategy to Council's Corporate and Community emissions reduction plan.</li> <li>• Continue to monitor and record methane and other waste emissions as required by NSW EPA legislation.</li> </ul> <p>Beyond this, soft plastics continue to be a virtually un-solvable problem without fiscal support/incentives.</p>
<b>16. How could transparency of how coal mines meet their Safeguard Mechanism obligations be improved?</b>	
<b>17. What measures would lead to coal mines prioritising on-site abatement over offsetting?</b>	
<b>18. What measures should be considered beyond the Safeguard Mechanism to reduce emissions of the</b>	

<b>resources sector, particularly methane emissions, to meet NSW's emissions reduction targets?</b>	
<b>19. What additional measures could accelerate electrification and increase energy efficiency of new and existing buildings?</b>	If Council were able to implement DCP items to mandate both electric and gas supply provided to residential buildings, this may assist electrification. State subsidies for households that electrify may also work.
<b>20. How could social equity be better addressed in the transition to an electrified built environment?</b>	If state could focus on leased buildings, perhaps cover the cost for landlords to implement solar, battery and heat pumps, this could accelerate electrification of non-owned households.
<b>21. What approaches could NSW consider to eliminate refrigerants with a GWP &gt;10 from buildings?</b>	
<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>	
<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>	Our LGA struggles largely with infrastructure capabilities. To be more resilient we need better roads, more adequate wastewater facilities, well-zoned, mapped and planned cities. Large sprawling cities are perhaps the antithesis of adaptive.
<b>24. What additional information and evidence should the commission consider when assessing progress towards the adaptation objective?</b>	
<b>25. How can adaptation planning better use the NSW Government's climate change projections (NARClIM)?</b>	

<p><b>26. What other information or tools are needed to support decision-makers in NSW?</b></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><b>Are there any other pieces of evidence or feedback you would like to add?</b></p>	