

2025 consultation

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Net Zero Commission Submission from Trevor Ward

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

In 1975 I gained a university degree in Environmental Science and at the time scientists were reporting on the negative environmental impacts of continuing use of fossil fuels.

Now, 50 years later, coal mine expansions continue polluting with massive amounts of greenhouse gas emissions and fallout of coal dust in the countryside around open-cut mining operations. The regulatory system designed to constrain them is not working.

Methane leaking from coal mines is under-reported and under-accounted for as identified in numerous studies, so these emissions are not considered in coal expansion decisions.

The superheating potential of methane emitted from coal mines is currently not being considered - at over 80 times the warming potential of carbon dioxide over 20 years, this poses a huge threat to our climate and natural resources if not properly managed.

Communities involved in coal mining and usage need fast, fair and locally led transition investment, covering infrastructure and workforce transition training.

Trevor Ward

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