

## 2025 consultation

<b>Submission type</b>	Guided submission
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<b>Response ID</b>	275444

### 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>I think my experience of the impacts of climate change is fairly common but the only very specific instance I can relate is that when we were skiing in the 1970s, the tree level on the road to Perisher has altered significant. The hill behind Sponner's Hotel used to be used for skiing, but it is now a very healthy woodland, or was the last time I drove that way a few years ago. Its probably been done but having a set of older people describing the small, day-to-day changes might be a way to address the scepticism while still prevails in the community.</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>I am concerned about how the climate change debate occurs in the community. Despite having known for several decades that the climate is changing, I wonder if media reporting is over-focused on the "disaster" element.</p> <p>I agree that it is a disaster, but those stories are more prevalent than what is going right and the instances of positive changes that are occurring. I think ordinary people feel overwhelmed and can see few or no pathways where they can make a difference personally.</p> <p>If the Commission can acknowledge the severity of the problem, but provide pathways and solutions where ordinary folk, individually or as part of a community, can see things that they can do every day or every week that will have a cumulative effect.</p> <p>For example, there was a recent media report that the "cash-for-cans" (or is it bottles?) has meant that coastal pollution has decreased by 40% (?) in the last ten years.</p> <p>Re-cycling is only a small part of the response, but (a) it helps mitigate some drivers of climate change; and MUCH MORE IMPORTANTLY (b) it opens the way for people to think differently about where they fit into the puzzle of combating climate change. Its a bit like the May 3 election; clearly a significant number of people voted for what they thought would be the best option, but everyone was stunned to see the result - it was hugely more far-reaching than anyone had thought. Encouraging and channeling that energy could be hugely beneficial for the community, for businesses and for the economy, let along the climate.</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>Start by talking to First Nations people, not by putting together a proposal or an agenda or a list of things. Experience with engagement with First Nations people told me that this was the most common of mistakes when they were first approached. There was always work that had gone on before they were approached, which meant that the agenda was already firming up without them.</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>Spend the time/effort doing the travel to engage with them when and where they want, not expecting them to put in the hours and miles, and remunerate adequately. If you are consulting with someone, then they are a consultant, with the financial recognition reflecting that. Perhaps employment opportunities might occur as well.</p>
<b>5. What additional information and evidence should the commission consider when assessing progress towards NSW's targets for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions?</b>	<p>I don't have the expertise/knowledge to answer but strongly urge continuation of progress.</p>
<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>	
<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>I keep thinking that the Inland Rail using electric trains would solve a lot of problems. I realise that its Melbourne to Brisbane, but surely NSW will benefit in several ways from the reduction of diesel B-Doubles on our roads plus using the railway. And if the hold-up is the infrastructure at the two ends, surely they can link to/ or take the example of/ the large transport hubs which dot the outer areas of major cities.</p>

<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></p>	<p>Farmers have always responded to offers of cash, or at least less labour-intensive options.</p> <p>As a general guide, a farmer once remarked to me that "if I was in the business of getting farmers to change their mind, I was actually just interested in my job security". It was an off-hand remark intended to be humorous but it stayed with me for its accuracy. They will change their minds, but they need to have a good reason, and the average age of Australian farmers is 58 (I heard on the ABC recently). If that is the case, it was the average age in 1998, when I first heard the statistic.</p>
<p><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></p>	
<p><b>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?</b></p>	
<p><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></p>	
<p><b>14. What measures could accelerate industrial heat electrification in NSW, where technology is viable?</b></p>	
<p><b>15. What short to medium term measures could be prioritised to address the systemic challenges regarding waste generation and resource recovery?</b></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 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>	<p>Improved building regulations.</p> <p>I believe the State Government no longer uses, or requires local councils to use, building inspectors, leaning instead on published standards of construction. If this is the case then that needs to change immediately, particularly in regulations around insulation and sustainable, long-term construction methods and materials.</p>
<b>20. How could social equity be better addressed in the transition to an electrified built environment?</b>	
<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</b>	A voting community which understands the link between the ballot-box and the provision of government services including schools, hospitals, infrastructure.

<p><b>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></p>	
<p><b>24. What additional information and evidence should the commission consider when assessing progress towards the adaptation objective?</b></p>	
<p><b>25. How can adaptation planning better use the NSW Government's climate change projections (NARClIM)?</b></p>	
<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>	