

2025 consultation

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2025 consultation questions

<p>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>	<p>Our Shire (Wingecarribee) is at the top of the list for natural disasters in NSW. We have experienced fires (in particular), floods and droughts over the past 6 years. It is hard to say for sure that this is directly connected to Climate Change, but there is increasing evidence around the globe that weather events are getting steadily worse and there is no other explanation for this phenomenon.</p>
<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>	<p>As people like Saul Griffith, founder of Rewiring Australia, have pointed out, the quickest and most effective action that communities can take towards achieving net zero is the electrification of everything as and when they can. This should be coupled with incentives and/or mandates for homes to have higher energy efficiency levels as they are built and before they are bought and sold.</p> <p>Some steps towards achieving this could be to achieve this could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Providing direct subsidies to financing providers as has been done in the ACT and Tasmania via Brighte Finance + Mandating that home builders achieve a much higher level of energy efficiency in the new builds + Mandate that new home construction projects cannot have a gas connection + Provide direct funding support to grass-roots community groups to enable them to effectively promote and project manage the upgrading of home electrification in their region + Mandate EV public charging facilities in new living areas + Facilitate the development of Community Energy Zones to enable the local production and sharing of electrical energy
<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>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<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>	<p>Engagement with the respective Land Councils might be a good place to start, but the problems mentioned above will still apply.</p>

5. What additional information and evidence should the commission consider when assessing progress towards NSW's targets for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions?	Think it would be great to have a Statewide dashboard where all of the communities could post progress towards zero carbon emissions and to highlight particular projects they are undertaking to do that. Nothing like peer pressure to promote action. This will be particularly good when Councils are required to report their carbon emissions.
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?	In our view a focus on locally based Community Energy Zones and peer-to-peer trading of rooftop solar energy by Virtual Energy Networks would significantly reduce the need for generation and grid upgrades. Perhaps more focus on these areas?
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?	No. As noted above, there needs to be much more focus on Distributed Energy Resources (DER) than a traditional large-scale energy network
8. Are First Nations communities adequately engaged and included in sharing the benefits of the transition? What more could be done, and by whom?	See previous comments about such engagement.
9. What are likely to prove the most effective approaches to accelerate rapid decarbonisation across freight and passenger transport?	<p>Nothing beats electrification in these spaces. Our local train service to Moss Vale from Sydney is still diesel powered which is ridiculous in the 21st century. Let's get on with long term rail system upgrades.</p> <p>Re passenger transport - more and more attention needs to be paid to autonomous and semi-autonomous shared vehicular transport using EVs. ICE vehicles are a huge contributor to Scope 1,2 and 3 emissions for all communities and LGAs and need to be scaled down ASAP></p> <p>There also needs to be significant planning changes to facilitate new housing developments that promote walkability and easy access to close-by shopping centres for weekly needs to greatly reduce the need to hop in a motor vehicle (usually an ICE one) to do any shopping for goods and services.</p>
10. What specific actions or policies could increase uptake of emissions reduction strategies in agriculture,	<p>To increase the uptake of emissions reduction strategies in agriculture, both short- and long-term actions should align with regenerative land management principles and leverage nature-based solutions.</p> <p>In the short term, targeted incentives - such as carbon credits, transition grants, and technical support - can help farmers adopt</p>

<p>both in the short and long term?</p>	<p>practices like rotational grazing, cover cropping, and composting. Long term, embedding these approaches into agricultural policy, land valuation, and supply chain standards will normalise regenerative methods. Investment in education, peer-led extension services, and measurement tools that capture co-benefits like soil health and biodiversity will further drive adoption and resilience across the sector.</p>
<p>11. Given the uncertainties in land-sector net emissions, how should NSW incorporate this sector into the states climate policy and emissions profile?</p>	<p>NSW should adopt a proactive approach that embraces regenerative land management and integrate it into climate policy with a strong focus on co-benefits like soil health, water retention, and biodiversity.</p> <p>By promoting regenerative practices - such as holistic grazing, native vegetation restoration, and minimal soil disturbance - NSW can enhance carbon sequestration while building resilience to climate extremes. Embedding these practices into natural capital accounting and land-use planning ensures that even with uncertainty, the land sector contributes meaningfully and measurably to emissions reduction goals.</p>
<p>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>	<p>Specific actions that increase carbon storage and resilience of existing carbon stocks include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revegetation with native species - Planting diverse, deep-rooted native flora supports long-term carbon storage, stabilises soils, and restores ecological function. When guided by Indigenous ecological knowledge, species selection and placement can enhance cultural and ecological value. 2. Cool, cultural burning practices - Traditional fire management led by First Nations peoples reduces wildfire risk, protects large carbon stocks in forests and grasslands, and fosters regeneration of fire-adapted species. This also maintains landscape-level biodiversity and nutrient cycling. 3. Perennial pasture and ground cover maintenance - Keeping soils covered year-round through deep-rooted perennial grasses improves carbon sequestration in soils and enhances drought resilience. 4. Protection and restoration of wetlands and riparian zones - These ecosystems are carbon-rich and act as buffers during climate extremes. First Nations water and land management practices can work with regenerative practices that slow and spread the flow of water in landscapes and will guide hydrological restoration in culturally appropriate and ecologically effective ways. 5. Regenerative grazing and exclusion zones - Rotational grazing, combined with resting periods and exclusion of sensitive areas, allows grasslands to regenerate, improving soil carbon and reducing erosion. Indigenous knowledge of animal movement and landscape care enhances these efforts. 6. Soil stewardship and composting - Supporting microbial and fungal soil networks through composting, low-tillage, and organic amendments boosts stable carbon formation in soils. <p>By integrating regenerative practices with Indigenous-led stewardship, NSW can not only increase carbon stocks but also</p>

	restore landscapes in a way that - culturally rich, ecologically robust, and future-focused.
13. What policies or programs at a sectoral level could complement the Safeguard Mechanism to support the accelerated decarbonisation of heavy industry in NSW?	Not our area of expertise
14. What measures could accelerate industrial heat electrification in NSW, where technology is viable?	Not our area of expertise
15. What short to medium term measures could be prioritised to address the systemic challenges regarding waste generation and resource recovery?	<p>There needs to be much greater support for locally-based circular economy activities that reduce waste, enable purchase and reuse of locally-produced products and services. This will increase the availability of local jobs, reduce transport carbon miles for products and services and work-related travel, and keep dollars in local communities.</p> <p>There also needs to be a focus on locally-based Repair Cafes or equivalent to make use of local skills and the volunteer content provided by retirees in the community. This also educates people on the need to recycle, repair and reuse to preserve our precious resources.</p>
16. How could transparency of how coal mines meet their Safeguard Mechanism obligations be improved?	Not our area of expertise
17. What measures would lead to coal mines prioritising on-site abatement over offsetting?	Not our area of expertise.
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?	Ask the NSW Minerals Council.
19. What additional measures could	<p>+ Provision of free or subsidised home efficiency assessments;</p> <p>+ Financial support for energy efficiency upgrades - higher levels</p>

accelerate electrification and increase energy efficiency of new and existing buildings?	<p>of home insulation, double glazing where appropriate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Incentives for landlords to upgrade rental properties + Require property owners to provide energy efficiency ratings in advertising when selling their properties and to include the ratings in sales documents
20. How could social equity be better addressed in the transition to an electrified built environment?	
21. What approaches could NSW consider to eliminate refrigerants with a GWP >10 from buildings?	
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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions for Councils and their communities + Targets vs time for reductions in each of these + Progress updates of same
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?	A place where all communities are ready on all fronts for the inevitable impacts of more severe and more regular fires, floods and droughts - including power supplies, telecommunication services, SES services, community safety refuges, Government supported sinking funds for disaster recovery funding
24. What additional information and evidence should the commission consider when assessing progress towards the adaptation objective?	A State-wide register that reports on all the items outlined in Question 23
25. How can adaptation planning better use the NSW Government's climate change projections (NARClIM)?	Perhaps a series of Webinars by AdaptNSW on its content and use. It is not something that we are very familiar with even though we are a Climate Change focused organisation
26. What other information or tools are needed to support decision-makers in NSW?	Use of deliberative democracy tools as promoted by the new Democracy Foundation (https://www.newdemocracy.com.au/)

27. What initiatives should the commission consider in assessing NSW's preparation and responses to extreme heat and humidity events in NSW?	The aforementioned State-wide dashboard.
Are there any other pieces of evidence or feedback you would like to add?	No thank you