

Submission
No 18

**INQUIRY INTO 2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NET
ZERO COMMISSION**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 12 February 2025

Partially
Confidential

Dear Joint Standing Committee,

At the end of 2024, the NSW Net Zero Commission stated that “unless faster and more significant progress is made, the target for 2030 will not be achieved.”

They specifically named the NSW coal industry as a key part of this problem: “increased emissions” associated with a “sizeable pipeline” of new coal mining projects are risking the state’s GHG targets. This is very concerning.

Please determine that the NSW Government should request a specific, dedicated report from the NZC on the risks that coal and gas expansions pose to NSW climate targets, to be completed by June 2025.

The report should include advice on a coal sectoral target to drive emissions reduction in the coal sector.

In the meantime, approvals of new coal expansions should be paused until such advice has been provided by the NZC.

The Net Zero Commission should be asked to provide specific advice and make recommendations on all proposed major coal mine expansions in NSW, as per s15 (3) of the NSW Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023.

A Regulation should be created under the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023 to place a duty on key planning decision-makers to meet the 2030 and 2035 climate change targets and restrict downstream emissions.

I am particularly concerned about the impact of longwall mining in the Illawarra region, which is affecting the Sydney drinking water catchment. Damage that has been done so far appears to be irreversible. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-08-27/longwall-mining-causes-irreversible-damage-illawarra-water/104255888>

Whitehaven’s proposed \$400 million Narrabri Stage 3 mine expansion project (also known as Narrabri South) would extend the life of the existing Narrabri coal mine from 2031 to 2044. Please consider pausing such expansions in NSW until the Net Zero Commission has provided specific recommendations regarding the environmental impact on our existing net zero targets in NSW.

Please be brave for the Australia of the future.

Thank you.