

**Submission  
No 20**

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

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I am a resident of Gloucester, NSW. Coal mining has ceased in our area and I would not like it to return. At one stage we faced a Coal Seam Gas proposal that would have had devastating effects on the rural character cherished by residents and visitors to the Gloucester area.

Coal mining can claim short term economic benefits but I believe they are outweighed by short and long impacts, particularly on the natural environment through loss of biodiversity and the legacy of mining voids.

Coal Seam Gas extraction has zero benefit beyond financial returns to shareholders.

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.