

**Submission
No 60**

INQUIRY INTO 2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NET ZERO COMMISSION

Organisation: Canterbury Bankstown Climate Action Network

Date Received: 14 February 2025

Canterbury Bankstown Climate Action Network - submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Net Zero Future

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the Canterbury Bankstown Climate Action Network. It is a network with over 500 supporters in one of the largest LGAs in South West Sydney. We are committed to a genuine transition to net zero by 2050, and to adapting our community to the changing climate.

Please can you consider the following points regarding the Net Zero Commission's first Annual Report.

For the short time period captured by the report, the initial findings are alarming.

The report clearly articulates the impact of extending the life of coal in NSW. This is going to exert a lot of pressure on other sectors and industries (like the transport industry) to reduce more than their proportionate share of emissions at a time where budgets are really tight.

We need to urgently decarbonise and electrify our Scope 1 and 2. The can has been kicked down the road for long enough, no transition of this magnitude is ever easy, but the alternative is far worse. Coal needs to be eliminated from our grid.

We need a planned exit from exporting coal. There needs to be a strategy which allows for the workforce to be redeployed and regional communities supported through this process.

The 91% increase of emissions from the built environment sector is extremely worrying, and is an indictment on the planning laws of successive NSW governments. Why are we not doing more to enforce appropriate energy standards for new homes and businesses, as well as enabling retrofitting of existing buildings. This has been talked about for years but we still have weak standards which are dictated by the development lobby, and are not appropriate for our climate. One thing we need to be doing immediately is stopping gas connections in new buildings - continuing to permit gas in buildings of the 2020s means that they will need to be expensively retrofitted in future decades. This makes no sense at all.

The growth of emissions from the transport sector is also worrying. The NSW government has been encouraging the roll out of EV charging and investing in public transport, but there is clearly more to do. The planning department needs to work more closely with transport authorities to ensure that new suburbs are laid out to maximise public transport rather than private vehicle use.

The new Federal fuel standards are a welcome step, but there is much more that needs to happen to curtail the use of large inefficient vehicles.