

**Submission
No 66**

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

Name: Mr Steve Garthwin

Date Received: 13 February 2025

I call on the Joint Standing Committee on Net Zero Future to seek a halt to coal mining expansions and urgent reductions in coal sector emissions. I implore the NSW Government to request a specific report from the Net Zero Commission, to be completed by June 2025, on the risks that coal and gas expansions pose to NSW climate targets.

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

I note that the first report of the NSW NZC shows that NSW is not on track to meet any legislated emissions reduction targets, in part because of the "sizeable pipeline" of more than 17 coal mine extensions and applications in the state. This is an environmental train wreck in progress, which I find deeply shocking. The report says that potential emission increases associated with extended or expanded coal projects may require other sectors to make greater emissions reductions to meet the state's emissions target. Why? Let's get rid of dinosaur coal as soon as possible. I would like to see a Regulation 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. NSW Government staff should be held accountable to our grand-children's future for decisions made in their name. The published key functions of the Net Zero Commission include: to monitor, review and provide recommendations on progress towards the primary emissions targets for NSW; to monitor and review action currently being taken in NSW to address climate change - a) with a focus on the environmental, social and economic impacts - b) and a specific focus on the strategies, policies and programs of the Government of NSW and to identify and recommend action that should be taken. Clearly it is in your brief to recommend, as an urgent priority, curtailing the expansion and extension of coal mining in NSW. I trust that the committee has the fortitude and purpose to resist the pressure from powerful vested interests whose coal mines are trashing our environment and childrens' futures. Please vote to cull coal now.