

**Submission
No 72**

INQUIRY INTO 2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NET ZERO COMMISSION

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Date Received: 13 February 2025

The first report of the NSW Net Zero Commission (2024) has been released and is deeply concerning. The world has already passed the 1.5 degrees warming from pre-industrial times that Australia signed up to in Paris. The report states that NSW will not meet the 2030, 2035 and 2050 emissions targets that have been set.

It is critical for the future of Australian citizens that we not only reach but exceed the emission reduction targets. The Net Zero Commission Report clearly identifies that this will not happen if the proposed extensions and expansions of coal projects in NSW go ahead. I have lived in the Hunter Valley since 2011 and understand the critical role coal mining plays in our community. But we must transition our communities to a low carbon future if the region is to remain habitable for our children and grandchildren.

The NSW Government should ask the Net Zero Commission 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.

The NSW Government should also create a Regulation 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.

In addition, the NSW Government should require existing coal mining operations to fund an independent planning authority to plan and manage the just transition of coal dependent communities like the Hunter. This needs to be done with public participation experts to ensure co-design of solutions with the community - nothing about us without us!