

Submission
No 75

INQUIRY INTO 2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NET ZERO COMMISSION

Organisation: Denman Aberdeen Muswellbrook Scone Healthy Environment
Group Inc

Date Received: 14 February 2025



Denman Aberdeen Muswellbrook Scone Healthy Environment Group Inc is located in the Upper Hunter coalfields. We are dedicated to providing community voice to industry and all levels of government in defense of our natural environment in the interests of human health and well-being, and the protection of biodiversity.

To: Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Net Zero Future
14th Feb, 2025

Re: NSW Parliament inquiry into Net Zero

Our group is deeply concerned at the failure to provide adequate responses to the existential threat of climate change by all levels of government. We are particularly concerned that politicians are not educating themselves or providing their electorates with the necessary information and sense of urgency needed for us to change so much of what we do and the way we do it.

The first Report makes it clear we are not on track to meet any of NSW Net Zero targets. Our group is particularly affected by coal mining.

We ask that the NSW Government call on the federal government to make public the Office of National Intelligence (ONI) Report on the Threats posed by Global Heating. Vice Admiral Barrie is not alone in saying addressing climate change should be of a “war footing” status. This will take serious public education, which needs solid evidence at its core.

Coal and gas expansions are unacceptable obstructions to NSW climate targets. Net Zero have identified that while they proceed it would seem other industries must make up the production gap. These particular sources need focussed attention and should be reported 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, and no new EL offered.

As Australia is a wealthy country, with a universal education system we are in a position to find and implement new directions away from the export of fossil fuels. A Regulation under the CCNZF Act should be created to place a duty on key planning decision-makers to meet the 2030 and 2035 targets and to consider downstream emissions in the context of the Paris temperature goals (as per the purpose of the Act). This is something we should, as a country be able to do for our Earth.

We agree the Net Zero Commission should also be asked to provide specific advice and make recommendations on all proposed major coal mine expansions, as per s15 (3) of the CCNZFA.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Net Zero Commissions first report.

Regards

Wendy Wales, President DAMS HEG