

WHAT THE NSW GOVERNMENT KNOWS

In a submission it prepared for the Federal consultation on post-2020 emissions targets but was never submitted by the Premier, there was a summary of key findings from the NSW and ACT Regional Climate Modelling [NARClIM] projections developed by the NSW and ACT governments in conjunction with the Climate Change Research Centre at the University of NSW.

The submission, which was obtained under the Government Information (Public Access) Act [GIPA], notes that:

“...without significant reductions in global emissions:

- by 2070 NSW average temperatures will be **2.1 degrees higher** than now
- summer and spring will see the largest change, with maximum temperatures up to **3 degrees higher than now by 2070**
- by 2070 the north-west may see over **40 additional hot days** a year with over one-third of the year experiencing maximum temperatures above 35 degrees
- along the Great Dividing Range and the Tablelands there will be **fewer cold nights**, potentially impacting on natural ecosystems, snow tourism and cool climate agriculture
- annual average rainfall will not change significantly, but there will be **changes in seasonal rainfall**
- increases in severe fire weather during spring may **increase bushfire risk** and reduce opportunities for hazard reduction burning.”

“In particular, the impacts on the agricultural and tourism sectors, alpine regions, regional and coastal communities, human health and emergency services would be very significant.”

These are foreseeable risks that we must take seriously.

We should expect dedicated action.

The Greens believe we need to meet the challenge of climate change and act responsibly. Governments have a duty of care to citizens and it's time to **ACT**.

Over 25 years of action WASTED!

1988

Toronto Conference on the Changing Atmosphere

Developed nations call for a 20 % reduction of 1988 greenhouse emissions by 2005; first meeting on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was held.

1992

154 countries sign treaty

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; 1,700 of the world's leading scientists present Warning to Humanity that “human beings and the natural world are on a collision course.”

2014

Compact of States and Regions' established

20 State, Territory and provincial governments, representing more than 22m people, including California, New York, Wales, Scotland & Rio de Janeiro. SA & ACT have joined.

Barack Obama stated:

We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and the last generation that can do something about it.

2015

Pope Francis stated:

The climate is a common good belonging to all and meant for all...Reducing greenhouse gases requires honesty, courage and responsibility.

CLIMATE CHANGE BILL 2015

A SUMMARY OF GREENS NSW LEGISLATION



What Can You Do?

Visit climateactionnsw.org.au for our campaign kit and:

- Sign the Commitment to Climate Action
- Ask your local MP to pledge their commitment and support the legislation
- Start the conversation in your community

Authorised by Jan Barham, Parliament House, Macquarie St Sydney NSW 2000.
Printed by Breakout, Trades Hall, Level 2, 4 Goulburn St Sydney NSW 2000.

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO CUT EMISSIONS AND PREPARE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IN NSW.

Governments are failing our community on climate change.

Together, we can make a difference.

www.climateactionnsw.org.au



Introducing the Bill

Second Reading Speech Jan Barham 22.10.15 extract

I am introducing this Bill because it is essential that we provide for the wellbeing of future generations and protect our natural environment and precious biodiversity.

If we fail to address global warming and its impact on our climate we will leave an unsafe environment and a compromised quality of life to those who inherit the consequences of our inaction.

This Bill delivers in a fundamental way on our constitutional expectation that the Parliament will make laws for the peace, welfare and good government of New South Wales. If this Parliament is to act in the best interests of the people of New South Wales, now and into the future, it is our responsibility to ensure that the laws of the State prioritise reducing the risks and impacts of climate change.

There is an unprecedented but foreseeable risk and there are things that can be done to address it.

It is our responsibility to act.

Part 3: Targets

NSW greenhouse gas emissions target

- (1) The NSW target is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 30 June 2040.
- (2) The Premier is to ensure that the NSW target is met.

The interim targets are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 25% less than 2000 levels by 2020, 40-50% less by 2025 and 60-80% less by 2030.

These are strong and appropriate targets, consistent with ensuring that New South Wales makes a contribution to limiting the rise in global temperatures to no more than two degrees and to achieving the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees—a goal that our neighbouring Pacific Island States and leading experts have strongly urged global leaders to pursue.

Part 5: Public Authorities

Under Part 5 of the bill, all public authorities, which includes every government department and each local council, must prepare a Climate Change Action Plan every 4 years which details what the authority will do to contribute to achieving the emissions targets and adapting to climate change.

Importantly, the bill will provide for the bringing of court proceedings to remedy or restrain any decision or action that is in breach of these obligations.

If a government develops solid plans to contribute to climate action and follows them, these safeguards will never be necessary. But these provisions will ensure that the public can hold any government accountable.

The bill also provides a voluntary mechanism for any private entity to request to be subject to the same obligations as is a public authority. Any company or non-government organisation that wants to demonstrate leadership on climate change can notify the Minister that it would like to be subject to these same obligations to produce action plans and to ensure its decisions and actions do not detrimentally affect our capacity to meet the targets or adapt to climate change.

Part 2: Objects and Principles

Overview of the Bill

The objects of this Bill are as follows:

- (a) to set targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,
- (b) to facilitate the Government's development of strategies, policies and programs to meet those targets and to adapt to the effects of climate change,
- (c) to promote transparency and accountability by facilitating the provision of accessible information about the effects of climate change on people, communities and ecosystems across the State,
- (d) to encourage the local government sector, the private business sector and the wider community to take action to address climate change.

A set of guiding principles about the serious threat of climate change and the need for urgent action are included and must be considered by the Minister and in interpreting all NSW legislation.

Part 4: The Minister

The Bill provides that at 4-year intervals the Minister is to prepare:

- a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Plan that sets annual carbon budgets in line with the targets and sets out the strategies, policies and progress that the Government will implement to meet budgets.
- a Climate Change Adaptation Plan that presents an analysis of the likely impacts and vulnerabilities related to climate change across the State and identifies strategies, policies and programs to adapt to the impacts and prepare for emergencies caused by climate change.

Part 6: Climate Change Commission

Finally, the Bill establishes the New South Wales Climate Change Commission, an independent statutory body of five to nine members with expertise in climate change and its effects.

- (1) The Commission has the following functions under this Act:
 - (a) to advise the Minister on matters relating to climate change, including strategies for mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change,
 - (b) to analyse data to identify patterns and trends relating to climate change,
 - (c) to make recommendations regarding the State's progress in addressing climate change,
 - (d) any other functions relating to climate change as may be prescribed by the regulations.