

Fri 3/06/2022 4:17 PM

[BULK] Take the Survey Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Take the Survey through your NSW Environment Protection Authority website.

Name

Annie Nielsen

Organisation or business name

Parramatta Climate Action Network

Position (job title)

Convenor

email address

[REDACTED]

Which stakeholder group best describes you?

Volunteer Climate Action group

Do you support extending the summer petrol volatility period from 15 November - 15 March to 1 November - 31 March?

strongly support

Do you support requiring older operations at EPA licensed industrial premises to meet the more stringent emission standards that apply to newer activities and plant?

strongly support

Comments

The regulations have been well below overseas levels allowed so this is very important for health reasons

Do you support the transition period (by 2025 to 2030) for these older activities and plant to meet more stringent emission limits?

oppose

Comments

The health of people is too important to allow a transition period.

Do you support expanding the geographic area in which controls apply for the storage and transfer of volatile organic liquids to include the greater Newcastle and Wollongong metropolitan areas, so they are included in the area that requires petrol vapours to be captured during transfer of petrol between underground storage tanks and road tankers (the stage one zone in the Clean Air Regulation)?

support

Do you support the proposed new tightened emission limits and control requirements for all volatile organic liquid storage tanks, loading plant and tank vehicles regardless of age?

support

Do you have any comments on the timing of the transition period for meeting the proposed new requirements: • 2024 to 2027 for new storage tanks, loading plant and tank vehicles, and • the next major maintenance or 2027 to 2030 for existing storage tanks, loading plant and tank vehicles?

This seems reasonable to allow new equipment to be phased in

What do you think are the most important sources of air pollution to address in Sydney?

Wood fired heaters and stoves

What do you think are the most important sources of air pollution to

address in Newcastle?

Coal mines and power stations

What do you think are the most important sources of air pollution to

address in Wollongong?

coal mines and wood fired heaters

What do you think are the most important sources of air pollution to

address in the Greater Metropolitan Region?

All the above plus petrol and diesel vehicles

Parramatta Climate Action Network Submission on NSW Clean Air Regulation 2022.

ParraCAN is a community group in Western Sydney whose members are concerned about rising greenhouse gas emissions and the effect this has on Western Sydney, on NSW, Australia and the world. We are concerned in the short term about such things as increasing heat in Western Sydney and the effect this has on the health of citizens, especially in Western Sydney.

We realize that coal fired power stations, as well as producing greenhouse gas emissions, also release harmful gases and fine particulate matter that have detrimental effects on the health of people in the Hunter Valley, the Central Coast and Lithgow but also these gases travel a lot further, including to Western Sydney. However, we are concerned about the health of all the people affected by these gases, not just in Western Sydney.

We understand that some effects of these gases are increased rates of asthma, especially in children, increased numbers of babies born with lower than normal weight and more seriously early death due to exposure to SO₂.

The problem is that the coal fired power stations are allowed to release these poisons into the atmosphere, despite regulations, as they apply for exemption.

The Clean Air Regulation sets the legal framework for managing air quality in NSW and controlling air pollution. We are concerned about the emission of pollutants from fossil fuel power stations, motor vehicles and wood heaters. Both the current and proposed levels are too high, especially when compared to European standards. Are New South Wales residents lives worth less than European lives?

The standards for particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) are not planned to be reduced by 2025 or 2030. This is unacceptable due to the harm to people from these emissions. Nitrogen oxide levels are to be reduced by 3 times (1500-500) by 2030 but even this is up to 8 times worse than EU limits today. Sulfur dioxide limits are currently up to 8 times worse than the EU limits but are proposed to have no limit up to 2025 and 2030, despite the fact that long term exposure to SO₂ has been associated with cardiorespiratory mortality. Mercury is probably the worst pollutant affecting the nervous system and the level permitted by our power stations is up to 13 times worse than the EU limit and will be allowed to be increased under the new standards.

Power stations are bad but car pollution is also unacceptable. Our standards for vehicles are not as strict as in Europe. Consequently childcare and day care centres must be built away from major roads.

See the quote below from Dr Kate Charlesworth in the Singleton Argus.

The Singleton Argus, 2 June, 2022, Dr Kate Charlesworth, a public health doctor and a member of the Climate Council and Doctors for the Environment Australia, describes the impacts of coal on human health as "a double-whammy".
"From an air pollution perspective, as we understand more about air pollution, these fine particles are more harmful than we actually thought," she said.
"PM_{2.5} are tiny air pollution particles which can get into the bloodstream and can have an impact not just on heart disease and asthma but brain development.

"Coal in Australia contributes to 800 premature deaths and 14,000 asthma symptoms. In terms of climate health impacts, Harvard University has found that fossil fuel pollution is responsible for more than 8 million deaths globally each year - that is the same as from cigarette smoking - coal mining is the new tobacco.

"From a health perspective I find it extraordinary that it's not recognised as the enormous issue that it is. We need to transition as quickly as we can. The health case is a really strong case.

Please consider ParraCAN's submission and the words of Dr Kate Charlesworth when you contemplate new levels of permissible pollutants from Power stations, wood fired burners and vehicles. The health and lives of Australians are not worth the risks. We need to transition to renewable energy sooner rather than later and companies must not be licensed to pollute.

Annie Nielsen, Convenor

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