

## **Submission on NSW Clean Air Regulation 2022**

I am making this submission because I am concerned about greenhouse gas emissions through fossil fuel power stations, motor vehicles and wood heaters. We are already seeing devastating effects of climate change in Australia and in many other countries. On our own doorstep we have rising temperatures in Sydney especially Western Sydney, floods and fires in NSW and Queensland. Under these circumstance I am very concerned that the in proposed Clean Air Regulation levels are going to be far too weak to effectively improve the air quality. They are between 2.5 to 50 times worse than standards in the EU. Also, other countries such as the US, South Korea, China and Japan have more effective pollution controls. 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. This regulation is irresponsible when it has been proven that long term exposure to SO<sub>2</sub> 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. 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. Furthermore, power station operators would only be required to reduce pollution over the next 3 to 8 years. This is far too late when we are already at this point in time in the middle of a climate crisis.

The harm caused to human health by coal fired power stations is immense. These effects include childhood asthma, babies born with low birthweight.

Technologies are available which reduce the emissions from coal fired power stations such as low nitrogen oxides burners, wet scrubbers or selective catalytic pollution reduction technologies. If these technologies are available, why are power station operators not by law required to use them?

Under the current circumstance with a climate crisis that is already devastating the lives of so many people through, floods and fires in Australia and the around the world, with the impact of air pollution on many people's health and even deaths caused by pollution it is imperative that we transition to cleaner energy as quickly as possible. I ask you to please consider this submission when setting the new standards for air pollution in the Clean Air Regulation. This is a very serious issue, the health of people and the health of the planet for future generations is at risk much stricter levels that are enforced now and not in 3 to 8 years time are absolutely necessary.

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