

For over twelve years, the Bathurst Community Climate Action Network has been agitating for concerted, coordinated action against climate change by all levels of government. While the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has had an important role in protecting our biodiversity and contributing to ecological sustainability, it has ignored the impact of a range of developments on the most important global contributor to environmental deterioration, climate change. This had the bizarre result, hypothetically for example, that in assessing proposals for a coal mine and a pumped hydro project which might have similar impacts on the local environment during the commissioning/establishment phase, the projects would be judged using the same inadequate criteria. Yet the projects would be diametrically different in their impact on climate change locally and globally. We, therefore, welcome in principle, the EPA's response to the recent Land and Environment Court decision as outlined in the draft Policy and Action Plan.

Over the last 3 decades government climate policies have been plagued by political partisanship, inconsistencies, if not conflicts, between policies at the different levels of government and within the bureaucracies of the same government, frequent changes in policy and a failure to implement promising policies. So, we are particularly pleased with a number of commitments in the drafts, especially the effort to ensure consistency between the NSW Government's *Climate Change Framework* and the remit of the EPA. We also support the intention to coordinate action with other State and federal government agencies.

Much of the success of the Policy and Plan will depend upon the details of its implementation. For example, the resourcing of the agency and the types of metrics used to evaluate. We recognise the emphasis on data gathering, communication, regular reporting on KPIs and deliverables & drawing on the climate expertise from across the NSW Public Service. (Draft Action Plan p14, Continuing Action 2) but hope that the EPA's decisions will also be based on world's best expertise & research from across the globe.

We support the principles of both these documents and look forward to their expeditious and effective implementation.

Jack Fry

President.

Bathurst Community Climate Action Network
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Mob: 0444 566 134