



Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle

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This Letter was sent to Morris Iemma and another sent to Peter Debnam prior to the state election:

To: The Hon. Morris Iemma Premier of NSW  
Level 40, Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
SYDNEY 2000

14 March 2007

Dear Mr Iemma

We are writing to you as one voice from the many citizens' climate change action groups that have formed across New South Wales. Our groups' existence is the result of growing anxiety in the population about the lack of effective action delivered so far on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from our State.

Our members are drawn from the spectrum of this State's residents, from urban, rural and regional areas. They include small and large business operators, parents, students, grandparents, farmers, migrants, and public service and other employees. Diverse and often dissimilar, we all share a common wish to see far more effective measures undertaken by our leaders to avert the dangerous climate change that scientists across the globe predict.

We congratulate your government's recent announcements regarding rebates for domestic water tanks and solar hot water heating, as well as the GGAS. However, it is clear that these measures alone will not bring about the necessary reductions in emissions to keep global warming below the danger threshold (agreed by the European Union) of 2°C by the time our young children reach adulthood.

There is a wealth of knowledge in the public domain regarding climate change, its current and predicted effects, its causes and, increasingly, the necessary steps and options to curb our state's contribution to this global crisis.

The existence of our many groups demonstrates a widespread understanding in NSW about the need for sweeping, legislated changes to industry and society to tackle climate change effectively.

We are writing to clearly express to you that:

A. Many people in New South Wales *are* prepared to make the necessary changes to our lifestyles to avert threatening climate change, including paying more for electricity.

B. We are acutely aware of the significant contribution of the NSW coal industry to climate change, both here and overseas and we are not

convinced by the clean coal pathway. The burning of coal in NSW for electricity is the largest single source of carbon dioxide emissions in NSW, and contributes 40% of our State's greenhouse gas emissions. Exports of NSW coal contribute more to global greenhouse gases than all of Australia's emissions combined. Worldwide, there is no proven, working model for sequestering greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants. The technology to provide 'clean coal' may never come to fruition, yet time is of the essence. We feel that any party that consents to the expansion of such a dangerous industry in this age is not acting responsibly, or in the public interest.

C. We expect our government to swiftly impose measures that will cut greenhouse emissions from industry and domestic society to safe levels, and we will support and respect such leadership on this critical matter.

D. We are very much aware that there are substantial numbers of highly credible research papers and reports that demonstrate the viability of currently available, clean, renewable energy sources as being able to deliver the majority of the energy needs of this country.

On behalf of the undersigned NSW citizens' climate action groups, we ask that the NSW Labor Party pledges to:

1. Legislate a greenhouse emissions reduction target of at least 30% below 1990 levels by 2020, to put NSW on track for an emissions reduction target of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.
2. Legislate a state renewable energy target of 25% by 2020.
3. Cease the approvals of new or expanded coal mines, coal-fired power stations and coal export infrastructure - beginning with an announcement prior to the State election on the proposed Anvil Hill and Moolarben mines- and support the development of alternative, sustainable industries in the Hunter and other coal-mining regions.
4. Adopt a target of zero energy growth by 2010, with annual reductions thereafter, through increased energy efficiency and demand management.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

**Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle**

PO Box 890, Rozelle NSW 2039

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**Citizens Climate Campaign**

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**Women for Change Alliance**

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