

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EPA's proposed requirements for NSW's large greenhouse gas emitters.

Overall, the necessary sense of urgency is entirely lacking. The world needs major emissions reductions now; we cannot afford yet another decade of tinkering. NSW has legislated a 2030 target, yet the proposals laid out in these documents would have negligible effect in that time frame.

Doubtless this mañana attitude stems from a desire to give the facilities time to adapt, but this is misplaced. It has been clear for thirty years that emissions must be reduced. They have had plenty of time to adapt.

Re Climate Change Licensee Requirements

Imposition of limits

GHG emissions limits must be placed on facilities ASAP, not "in the long term" (or as Sir Humphrey would have put it "in the fullness of time.")

A fair system would set an emissions intensity limit across the sector. Optionally, it could set different limits for thermal and metallurgical coal, and could be in terms of tonnage of production or energy value of production.

As with the Federal Safeguard Mechanism, the limit would need to be lowered annually.

Measurement

Key to having such a limit is measurement. Since it will take some time to roll out the proposed statewide monitoring, it will at first be necessary to rely on estimates made by facilities. The risk of underreporting should be lowered significantly by

- spot checks, potentially instigated by members of the public, and
- where reported emissions exceed actual emissions, presuming the reported emissions to have been understated to the same degree historically, and
- imposing penalties for any implied historical exceedances.

Feasibility

No facility should be allowed to argue that meeting the cap is not feasible. That is open to abuse. If meeting the target renders a facility uneconomic then it has merely lost out to more fit competitors.

Re Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plans: Mitigation Requirements

In principle, it should not be necessary to mandate any particular means of reducing emissions, such as VAM at underground mines and gas drainage at open cut mines; the mandated limit should be met by each facility in whatever manner it chooses. However, that presumes the reported emissions are accurate. As described above, that could be achieved by retrospective policing. Otherwise, such mitigation measures should be mandated forthwith.

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