I write regarding the proposed NSW Climate Change Policy as described at https://yoursay.epa.nsw.gov.au/climate-change-policy-and-action-plan

I've read through it and would like to suggest something based on a similar approach taken by New York State. Their "Statewide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report" (https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/99223.html) also has specific targets for reducing GHG emissions, and like NSW, uses Federal reports on emissions tracking to track progress.

Notably however, New York State explicitly states that:
"Emissions must also be expressed in terms of tons of carbon dioxide equivalents using a 20-year Global Warming Potential."
This is mainly targeted at methane, which has a 10 - 12 year life in the atmosphere before converting to CO2. Methane is a very powerful warming gas, so it has a 20 year GWP of 83, versus a 100 year GWP of 28. We don't have 100 years to get on top of climate change.

Would NSW also consider explicitly guiding its climate change actions based on 20 year GWPs?

I do note that the Australian Federal NGERs emissions tracking assumes 100 year factors to align with international convention. Climate change action however should reflect the timeframes for action. The IPCC itself states that:
"Due to its much shorter lifetime, methane has a disproportionate impact on near-term temperature, and is estimated to account for almost a third of the warming observed to date (AR6 WG1 SPM; WG-III Chapter2, Figure 2.4). Methane reductions could be particularly important in relation to near- and medium-term temperatures, including through counteracting the impact of reducing short-lived aerosol pollutants which have an average cooling effect." IPCC. Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. 2022. Page 1-15.

The IPCC also has said that:
"There is no scientific argument for selecting 100 years compared with other choices." (IPCC. Anthropogenic and Natural Radiative Forcing. In Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 2013. Page 711)

Congratulations on your initiative. I trust this suggestion helps you help us all.

Regards

John Godfrey