To the EPA
Climate Change Action Plan - Have you say submission

Land clearing - Private and Forestry practices, for development, for mining
NSW has the largest amount of land clearing since the last decade under a LNP government IN THE WORLD. More so than Brazilian rainforests. The politicians that allowed that should really hang their heads in shame.
That's the starting point if you want to mitigate warming.
Stop it and stop threatening our native species and their very existence.
This must stop - the key to retaining this vegetation is to stop cutting down what's already there FIRST, right now, and lock it up over all lands, so that it can't be used as offsets - forcing developers to find other ways to build that doesn't destroy prime threatened species habitat and the fossil fuel industry would be forced to depollute and clean up their own mess. This is instead of the EPA and the public having to pay for mining holes restoration.
To save our native species from extinction this needs to happen - offsets are not the answer and are abused/ duplicated and does not ever give a like for like vege type that is destroyed - this practice is unacceptable when we are going to lose our unique wildlife and plant national emblems.

Private Native forestry practices are a "complete fail" and they are destroying understorey and more habitat (and the next generation of trees) our forests include understorey, mid-storey and canopy trees. All to often they only see the loggable timber and that fails all creatures that use this habitat - us included. All lands under PNF agreements should have retraining of all operators in forests, same with those in NSW Forestry Corp compartments - it is obvious on the North Coast they have breached their own practices by being continually fined for these breaches and destroying areas where they shouldn't. This training should be conducted by DPIE staff in how to maintain habitat and biodiversity, where that is looked at first and maintained throughout all logging.

NO Native forests should be logged and we should only be using managed plantation timbers. No trees should be used to run power generators. The recent clearing felling (that needs to be outlawed) of Newry State forest and subsequent soil erosion and runoff in the Kalang River with the flooding event in February 22 was an example of unhealthy river turbidity that lasted over 7 weeks, compared to the Bellinger River that had the same rainfall but cleared in 4weeks. This affected oyster farmers, sailing operators, tourism and all people that rely on this catchment. This can not be ignored.
There is also science to back up that native forests are better at sequestering carbon than newly planted trees - but given we are looking at 2030 at getting to 50% reductions - this should be a priority, and net zero by 2050 - more trees need to be planted now as they will be the 20-30year old trees of the future. And something to do with the forestry workers - at least half their operations should be revegetation projects - they want to cut them down to make profit - well they should be replacing what is lost (and not just planting them and leaving them, but nurturing them until they mature) A line in the sand needs to be drawn - our planet is in crisis.

The Great Koala park needs to be put in place - it is in these known areas that koalas have survived the bushfires of 2019-20 - this is crucial.

Fracking Mining gas
I saw a study in America where methane was measured by people driving across the continent - as they came up to methane plants and where the gas was being fracked the levels (from quite a distance away) showed the increases of emissions skyrocketed. This is because the pipes holding the gas don't seal properly, it is escaping from other areas, turning rivers bubbling (QLD), where it is

being physically forced out of the ground by dirty chemicals apart from the risks associated with polluting the artesian basin. Indigenous people do not want fracking on their lands.
And add the gas projects in other parts of the country we are just adding to the warming of our planet. The project at Gladstone is producing more greenhouse gases than all of Australia's manufacturing, and domestic markets alone, in the liquifying of it to send offshore. These companies are not contributing to Australia's tax system by paying little or no tax and we NEED to be charging them a windfall tax as they do in Norway (see The Australian Institute) - the electricity price should be capped as they are just holding the taxpayer to ransom.
There are plenty of studies in Australia that show that fracking is dangerous. THe EPA NSW stopped the fracking practice a few years ago because of this - what underhand deal was made to weaken our environmental laws on this issue? The EPA must not be a "toothless tiger" - the laws need to be strengthened.

Planning Processes

The EPA must have the ability to be part of the Planning process not just at the beginning writing their recommendations, and then being ignored, and then ending up in the Land and Environment courts - with tokenistic fines. But that was the last known species just written off - not good enough! The environment department should at any time step in and regulate as they need to - not after the fact.
The planning department are not the environment department and should not override this department.

The use of State Planning proposals that are highly questionable should stop - they should always be merit based not on the whims of politicians and if it doesn't meet the environmental, social, and whole other range of requirements then it should not go ahead.
Prime example South Urunga development, cultural heritage was destroyed, the State Gave Council millions to update the sewerage however the local councils/ratepayers contribution will be beyond what they can get it built for instead of making the developer pay, developer contribution shortfalls for new development does not ever meet the cost to the community, apart from approvals in flood land, it is on top of a well known Ramsar wetland, has destroyed glossy black cockatoo habitat, it is too far out of town so more cars will be on the road, they reduced the block size so socially it will be slum-like living there and when this land was ear-marked for development some years earlier there were 800 submissions against it.

Fossil fuel mining

The subsidies must stop - the mines need to be closed and workers transitioned to renewables and resources that will get us there. The EPA must have the ability to be part of the Planning process all through any development project. They should not be given priority because they make donations to political parties.
The coal plants need to transition away to green hydro - blue hydro does not work ie: Gorgon Plant WA (The Juice Media, the Australian Institute)
No new coal/gas mines. Go full steam ahead on renewables.

We need as a society not beholden to vested interests - we need the Norway model now 78% goes to the government - these fossil fuel giants will still want our coal and gas. This will give us money to spend on flood mitigation/ moving towns like Lismore to higher ground, stop development on floodplains - the Hawkesbury plains in will be the next disaster.

Solar schemes

The government subsidies for solar must extend to those wanting to add more to their previously installed solar.

Even though our solar has a larger inverter to take more panels we can not afford to put more up there, but are now changed from gas water heating to electric our solar is not benefitting us or the grid. WE have been told we could completely replace our system but that would mean sending our original solar to landfill and we are not going to do that and destroy perfectly good solar panels. Every state government community hall and schools should be given solar panels for their roofs. Most community halls are run by not for profit groups that unless they get a grant will never be able to put solar on their halls.

Wind generation

Sovanus rotar smaller wind generation systems need to be looked at also.

Tide wave generation

Our country is a pioneer of this technology - lets do it!

Manufacturing

We need to look at every manufacturer to look at best future practices and support research and development on all of it to get us to the goals of mitigating a warming planet. Existing polluting industries, or industries like steel manufacture or others, cement making, building industries (with reuse schemes/ new materials, ways of doing things) and need to be put on notice to get with the program within a set timeframe that is possible for those industries and the role of the EPA is paramount in doing this.

This is harsh, but "Removing offsets" will show the weakest link industries that they need to change and move alongside the government to get to the goals needed - it will give back to society/our flora and fauna and this will work towards everyone being more sustainable for our future.

We wanted to talk a lot more about things but have run out of time.

Kind regards

Kerry Penrose and Derek Ridgley