



# MINING AND ENERGY POLICY



## WHAT WE BELIEVE

NSW is rich in mineral resources and energy. They are some of our greatest assets and contribute significantly to regional communities and the state more broadly. Our economy is underpinned by affordable and reliable energy and this is currently under threat. We believe that the utilisation of our mineral and energy resources must be conducted in a balanced and sustainable manner and with proper consideration of existing land users.

The intelligent way to do this is not by 'locking them away' and restricting their use but to actively manage natural resources to achieve a balance of economic, social and environmental benefits for all people in NSW.

Coal is NSW biggest export, but a variety of other minerals exist across the state particularly in the central and western regions. These minerals are not only important for the development of these regions but emerging and future technologies. We support the development of our mineral resources including the ongoing extraction, domestic use and export of coal, gold, copper, cobalt and other minerals.

Being an energy rich nation, it does not follow that we should have some of the highest energy prices in the world. Affordable and reliable energy is key to our states competitive advantage. Through neglect by the major parties, including sell offs and a complete failure to deliver sustainable energy policy, the people of NSW are being crushed by soaring prices from an increasingly unreliable electricity network.

While we are technology neutral, we recognise that with the increasing saturation of renewable energy sources comes greater risks to energy reliability. Reliability is best provided by large coal fired generators and we believe that it is logical to construct two new baseload High Efficiency Low Emission (HELE) coal fired power stations in the Hunter Valley and the introduction of sufficient modular nuclear capacity to enhance energy affordability in the long term, once federal and state government subsidies



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are removed, is essential.

We do not believe Government should divert large sums of public money into intermittent energy sources. All energy sources should be assessed on their own economic, social and environmental merits.

We support measures to ensure that we have a sufficient, long term and low-cost supply of natural resources such as coal and gas for our domestic use. Our thriving export market brings great benefits to NSW however this should not jeopardize domestic supply.

We will work tirelessly to ensure that we keep the lights on and reduce power prices. Notwithstanding this, mining exploration and extraction must never be allowed to permanently effect prime agricultural land or water systems, either surface or subterranean.



## OUR ACTION PLAN

1. Support the exploration and development of coal and mineral resources where appropriate.
2. Immediate moratorium on Coal Seam Gas (CSG) projects in NSW and a permanent ban in the Northern Rivers until the NSW Government implements all 16 recommendations of the Chief Scientist and Engineer's report into the CSG activities in NSW.
3. Support the immediate construction of a new HELE power plant in the Hunter Valley utilising the modern technology to ensure the highest standards of efficiency.
4. Support a policy framework that supports investment in affordable, reliable energy generation and supply.
5. Oppose the ongoing use of taxpayers money to subsidise intermittent energy sources.
6. Support the use of nuclear energy as a possible source of power.
7. Oppose further development of interconnectors between adjoining states as such infrastructure would further destabilise our delicate electricity network with NSW taxpayers bearing the cost.
8. Oppose any form of carbon tax.
9. Campaign to introduce education and training programs in all government natural resource agencies to ensure staff understand the benefits of modern agriculture, forestry and mining.