



## SUSTAIN ENERGY – A WORKING GROUP OF SUSTAIN NORTHERN RIVERS

24 April 2015

UNFCCC Taskforce  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
One National Circuit  
Barton ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **SUBMISSION TO THE REVIEW OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION TARGETS POST 2020**

Sustain Energy, a working group of Sustain Northern Rivers welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the review of Australia's post-2020 greenhouse gas emissions targets.

Sustain Northern Rivers is a collaboration of 26 peak regional organisations formed in 2008. The partner organisations, listed below, are committed to communicate, consult and collaborate for regional action on climate change. The membership includes councils, state government departments and agencies, university and TAFEs, and community organisations in the region.

Sustain Northern Rivers has developed a collaborative model based on distributed leadership. It acknowledges that no one organisation has the mandate or resources to deal with all of the interrelated issues associated with climate change. The approach is based on the premise that collaborative action is the most effective way to build this region's resilience and response to climate change. Working groups pursue initiatives that align with guiding strategies in four key areas of energy, transport, food and biodiversity.

Sustain Northern Rivers' long-term vision is a zero-emissions community and economy. From an energy use and generation perspective, our aim is to empower and enable the North Coast to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% and supports the NSW State Government's target to increase the proportion of renewable energy sources to 20% by 2020.

Sustain Energy aims to achieve that goal by increasing local renewable energy generation, encouraging energy efficiency in residential, commercial and industrial buildings and encouraging demand management initiatives to reduce peak winter and summer loads.

Sustain Energy recommends the Australian Government:

1. acknowledge Australia's national interest in maintaining long term global temperature trends to within 2°C of pre-industrial levels.



2. acknowledge the IPCC 5AR findings that global emissions of 35 billion metric tons or less by 2030 is the minimum target required to maintain global temperature rise within 2°C of pre-industrial levels
3. acknowledges the assumption that all countries have equal rights per person to emit to the atmosphere.<sup>1</sup>
4. consider 2030 targets for Australia that correlate to not more 120 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions per annum, on the assumption that this represents a globally equitable per capita share of global emissions based on national population projections of 29 million people, compared with world population projections of 8.321 billion in 2030
5. track a path to zero emissions after 2030
6. take a strong emissions reduction target in order to maximise the potential for effective global negotiations and commitments at future global climate change negotiations
7. make stronger and more effective efforts at communicating, consulting and engaging with the community about climate change and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, implications and opportunities.

The impact of the proposed target would depend on the domestic policies that are developed to deliver on the target. Sustain Energy supports research and modeling that identify the potential to nearly double the energy efficiency of the Australian economy by 2030 by investing in the modernisation of our energy system and taking advantage of recent technological developments.

Sustain Energy believes the Northern Rivers community of New South Wales needs improved energy security which can only come about via improved energy network and increased renewable energy projects in the region. The Federal Government's policy decision to review the Renewable Energy Target, for example, has and will have a significant impact on the capacity of communities and investors to develop such projects in the region.

SNR is very supportive of a post-2020 emissions reduction target that contributes Australia's fair share of effort to maintain global temperatures within 2°C and maintain a safe and stable climate system for the environment, community and economy for our current and future communities in the Northern Rivers region of NSW as well as Australia and the world.

SNR applauds the efforts of the federal government to invite submissions from the community about future targets. It also supports the federal government in pursuits of economic growth, jobs growth and development in Australia that pursues a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions future for the country.

We welcome the opportunity for stronger targets to necessitate appropriate domestic policy responses and greater opportunities for communities to respond.

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<sup>1</sup> Climate Change Authority (CCA) 2014, *Reducing Australia's Greenhouse Gas Emissions—Targets and Progress Review, Final Report*, Melbourne, p.115



For further information regarding SNR, please do not hesitate to contact the SNR representatives.

Yours sincerely,

**Natalie Meyer**  
**Convenor Energy Working Group**  
***Sustain Northern Rivers***

### ***Sustain Northern Rivers member organisations***

1. ACE community Colleges
2. Ballina Shire Council
3. Byron Shire Council
4. Byron Region Community College
5. Clarence Valley Council
6. EnviTE Inc
7. Local Community Services Association (LCSA) - Far North Coast Regional Group
8. Kyogle Council
9. Lismore City Council
10. North Coast TAFE
11. North East Waste
12. Northern NSW Local Health District
13. Northern Rivers Local Land Services
14. Northern Rivers Social Development Council
15. Northern Star Pty Ltd
16. Northern Rivers Tourism Inc
17. Northern Rivers Youth Advisory Council
18. NSW Department of Education and Communities
19. NSW Department of Primary Industries
20. NSW Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services
21. NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
22. Regional Development Australia-Northern Rivers
23. Richmond Valley Council
24. Southern Cross University
25. Tweed Shire Council
26. University Centre for Rural Health-North Coast
27. Youth Environment Society



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## Sustain Energy



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