



24 November 2022

**Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Economics (Legislation)
National Energy Transition Authority Bill 2022 Inquiry
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600**

economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

On behalf of the Australian Mining Cities Alliance (AMCA) I make this submission for consideration by the Committee.

AMCA is an active and formal collaboration currently (with expanding membership) comprising the Councils of five of the most iconic and economically significant mining cities and regions in Australia;

- City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder (WA),
- Mt Isa City Council (Qld),
- Broken Hill City Council (NSW),
- Isaac Regional Council (Qld), and
- City of Karratha (WA).

Communities of mining cities across Australia face a range of shared challenges and opportunities. The Australian Mining Cities Alliance (AMCA) exists to consider and address issues, and to progress the economic development and socio-economic sustainability of mining cities across Australia.

For some of our Member Councils the most significant long-term issue is that of economic and social sustainability of their communities, particularly as global commitment to decarbonisation has a direct impact on the outlook for fossil fuel mining and gas extraction.

For this reason, AMCA has strong interest in the National Energy Transition Authority Bill 2022.

In particular AMCA acknowledges and appreciates that the Bill includes the following specific function of the proposed Authority;

“(c) to support communities and workers affected by the closure of coal-fired power stations and coal mines to adapt, including by:



- (i) helping attract new public and private investment in job-creating industries and social infrastructure in affected areas; and*
- (ii) ensuring ongoing equivalent employment or social services are provided in affected area;”¹ (emphasis added)*

AMCA emphatically supports this function and offers the following fundamental assertions for consideration by Committee and Parliament;

1. Mining communities whose economic base is predominantly derived from the mining or extraction of fossil fuels will be the most significantly affected communities of all, as a result of decarbonisation.
2. Mining communities each comprise a society of workers and their families, many of which having long and deep commitments to and dependency upon their community.
3. Mining community workforces and businesses are not just the mine employees and the mining companies.
4. Many non-mining businesses and their workers underpin the mining activity providing key services, support and facilities and will be directly impacted by transition of their local economy. For example, the 2016 ABS statistics for Moranbah (Qld) state that Coal Mining employment is just 39.1% of total employment². The remainder of labour pool consists of teachers, nurses, local government workers, emergency workers, retail workers, hairdressers, fast food workers, electricians, bus drivers etc...
5. Transformation of mining communities must address the needs of both the mining businesses and employees and the non-mining businesses and their employees equally.
6. A ‘Safeguard’ approach to non-mining businesses is warranted.
7. Mining Communities and their local governments must be genuinely engaged and actively involved in the planning for their transformation.

The inclusion in the Bill of the following advice function is also supported;

“(e) how communities and workers affected by the closure of fossil fuel mines or coal-fired power stations can be worked with to ensure equivalent employment opportunities and social services are maintained, including by attracting new industries to affected areas;”³ (emphasis added)

It is indeed encouraging to note that the Bill requires the Authority to advise on the involvement of affected communities and in particular how the economic and social conditions can be sustained viz the objective to “...ensure equivalent...”.

¹ [22S1020.pdf;fileType=application/pdf \(aph.gov.au\)](#) section 9

² [2016 Moranbah, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

³ [22S1020.pdf;fileType=application/pdf \(aph.gov.au\)](#) section 11



AUSTRALIAN MINING CITIES ALLIANCE

AMCA contends that the local governments of affected communities are the obvious statutory entity to facilitate this at the local level.

AMCA further contends that the Commonwealth and State Governments should acknowledge this and immediately engage with affected mining community Councils as a matter of priority, not just in relation to the proposed National Energy Transition Authority but in relation to Climate Change initiatives and reporting as well, as AMCA proposed in its previous submission regarding the Climate Change Bill 2022⁴.

AMCA commends this submission to the Committee and will be pleased to provide further information as required.

Sincerely

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⁴ Australian Mining Cities Alliance Ltd submission to Environment and Communications Committee (Legislation) dated 19 August 2022 – submission 171

