

Extension of Eraring coal plant 'total failure': climate experts

By Ben Butler

Climate and green energy experts say the decision by Origin Energy to keep the country's biggest coal-fired power plant, Eraring in NSW, open for an additional two years is a sign **renewables haven't been built fast enough**.

They say it means **higher electricity bills** because the cheapest power in the NSW grid comes from renewable energy.

Tim Buckley, the founder and director of Climate Energy Finance, says the news that Eraring will be extended to April 2029 is "**disappointing**".

"This reflects **a total failure of planning by Origin** to protect its customers," he says.

"Origin Energy has failed to build any replacement generation capacity despite knowing for decades Eraring is due for closure.

"We need permanent solutions — new capacity — at speed and scale, not yet more band-aids on **unreliable end-of-life coal plant clunkers** (Callide C in Queensland last week had yet another outage)."

Johanna Bowyer, lead analyst for Australian electricity at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, says continuing to extend the life of elderly coal-fired plants "**scars off new renewable investment**".

"Clear, credible coal closure dates are essential if we want **new clean energy built on time**," she says.

"Extending coal plant lifespans before fully utilising lower-cost, cleaner options like energy efficiency and appliance upgrades in NSW homes, is a **missed opportunity**."

Read more on Eraring's **two-year stay of execution** here:

Origin extends life of Australia's largest coal-fired power station



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