THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN COAL MYTHS BUSTED

MYTH 1
Australia’s thermal coal exports are in decline

The value of Australia’s thermal coal exports is expected to grow by 28 per cent in 2016-17 and total $19 billion, according to official forecasts.

Australia’s coal exports continue to grow to meet the needs of energy markets in highly populated, developing economies in Asia as well as traditional customers such as Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

Australia’s total coal exports, including metallurgical coal, are forecast to increase to $55 billion, up by 61 per cent on 2015-16.

Source: Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

MYTH 2
World coal consumption has slumped BUSTED

Coal consumption has increased substantially this century, particularly in Asia.

Coal use in the top six markets for Australian coal has grown by 42 per cent over the last decade, according to the BP Statistical Review 2016.


www.minerals.org.au
Renewable energy will power Asia by 2040

**Electricity generation forecast, 2014 and 2040 (Twh)**

Coal-fired power generation dwarfs renewables in 2040.

**China**

*Australia’s thermal coal exports to China have increased almost 20-fold since 2005.*

China is still planning to increase its coal power generation capacity from 900 GW in 2016 to 1,100 GW in 2020. By investing in the latest high energy, low emission coal technology and using higher quality coal, China has reduced its annual CO₂ emissions by 450 million tonnes.

*Source: International Energy Agency, Coal Information 2016; National Energy Administration (China).*

**India**

*India is rapidly expanding its coal-fired power capacity with over 681 generation units under construction or planned.*

It is this growing fleet of power plants that Adani’s Carmichael coal mine in Queensland is planning to supply. Despite having vast coal resources of its own, India’s coal has lower energy content compared to high quality Australian coal. Australian coal has an energy content of over 5,500 kcal per tonne.

*Source: Central Electricity Authority (India), National Electricity Plan.*

**South East Asia**

*SE Asia’s power production has increased five-fold in the last 25 years with coal now accounting for 34 per cent of the region’s output.*

The International Energy Agency forecasts that by 2040 coal-fired power plants in South East Asia will produce 1,000 TWh of electricity per year, up from around 272 TWh in 2014. Australia is already a key supplier of high quality thermal coal to several countries in the region including Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia.


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**Coal-fired power generation dwarf renewables in 2040.**

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<thead>
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**Myth 3 Busted**

‘Coal is going to be an important part of our energy mix, there is no question about that, for many, many, many decades to come, on any view.’

Malcolm Turnbull
Prime Minister of Australia
ABC Radio, 25 October 2016

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**Coal-fired power generation dwarfs renewables in 2040.**

- **China**
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- **India**
  - India is rapidly expanding its coal-fired power capacity with over 681 generation units under construction or planned.
  - Source: Central Electricity Authority (India), National Electricity Plan.

- **South East Asia**
  - SE Asia’s power production has increased five-fold in the last 25 years with coal now accounting for 34 per cent of the region’s output.

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**Key Figures**

- **46,500 Jobs in Australia’s coal industry** – 90 per cent more than in 2007.
- **$392 billion** The total value of Australia’s coal exports over the last decade.
- **18%** IEA forecast for growth in Australia’s coal exports by 2040.