



China Emits More Carbon In 16 Days Than Australia Does In One Year

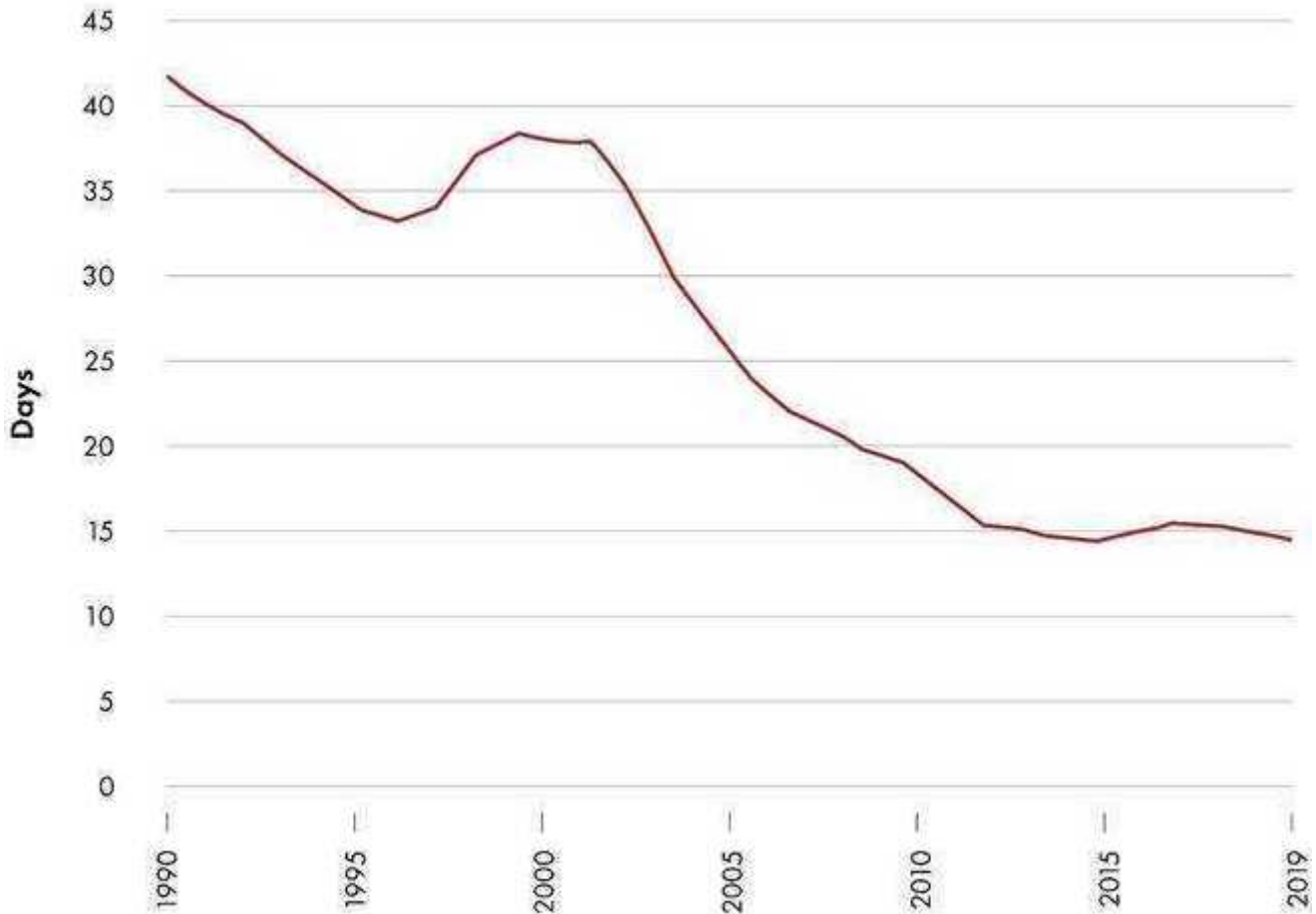
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Every 16 days China emits more carbon than Australia does in an entire year, according to new research released today by free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs. This means the annual effect on global emissions from Australia mandating a net zero emissions target would be cancelled out by China in just over two weeks.

“The complete de-industrialisation of Australia would have no discernible impact on global emissions but would inflict significant and irreparable economic and social damage,” said Cian Hussey, Research Fellow at the IPA.

How many days it takes China to match Australia's annual carbon emissions



Source: IPA, Our World in Data.

The analysis identified that Australia's carbon emissions per capita have declined by 15.4% since 2004, while China's emissions per capita over the same period have increased by 83.5%.

China is responsible for 63.3% of the increase in global carbon emissions since 2004, while Australia is responsible for just 0.35% of the increase.

In absolute terms, China's annual emissions have increased by over 5 billion tonnes since 2004, while Australia's annual emissions have increased by only 27.4 million tonnes.

"It is reckless and futile for the political class to impose on Australians further severe cuts to emissions which costs jobs and livelihoods, while China – the world's largest emitter– continues to



rapidly increase its emissions without consequence,” said Mr Hussey.

“Calls for Australia to adopt a net zero emissions target ignore the significant economic, social, and humanitarian costs which would inevitably be the result of such a target,” said Mr Hussey.



Change in per capita emissions since 2004

83%



-15

The analysis also shows that China operates 57 coal fired power stations for each one currently operating in Australia.

This figure will increase in coming years as China is currently constructing 92 coal-fired power stations, with a further 135 in the pre-construction phase, while Australia has none in the construction or pre-construction phase.

The analysis also identified that Australia's share of global carbon emissions declined from 1.3% in 2009 to 1.1% in 2019. Despite Australia's negligible share of global emissions, under the Paris Agreement Australians are subject to the deepest per capita emissions cuts in the developed world, as identified in previous IPA [research](#).

The IPA also analysed the most recently available information about the Paris Climate Agreement, and found that only 0.4% of countries (eight of 196) that signed the Paris Agreement are on track to meet their emissions reduction obligations.

Gambia, Bhutan, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Philippines, and India are the eight countries on track, and represent only 7.9% of global carbon emissions.

"Not only should Australia not proceed with a net zero emissions target, but we should withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement," said Mr Hussey.

IPA research released on 10 February found that a net zero carbon emissions target would place up to 653,600 jobs at direct risk of being destroyed, and that those job are concentrated in industries such as agriculture, heavy manufacturing, and coal mining.

Previous IPA [research](#) estimated that the Paris Climate Agreement would cost over \$52 billion over the period 2018-2030. This equates to \$8,566 per Australian family.

\$52 billion is the equivalent to building 22 new hospitals or paying for 20 years' worth of the Gonski 2.0 education funding.

Note: Analysis is based on data from Climate Action Tracker, Our World in Data, and the Global Coal Plant Tracker.