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IPA: ENVIRONMENTAL LAWFARE HAS COST THE ECONOMY UP TO \$1.2 BILLION

The Turnbull government is right to act to repeal section 487 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act*, which has enabled environmental groups to delay and disrupt major projects through legal challenges, according to a new research paper by the free market think tank Institute of Public Affairs.

In *Section 487 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act: How activists use red tape to stop development and jobs*, IPA Research Fellow Daniel Wild calculates the economic cost of project delays to the Australian economy directly from s. 487 to be as much as \$1.2 billion.

The paper found that the cumulative time spent in court as a result of challenges under s. 487 total approximately 7,500 days, or 20 years.

“Environmental groups have used s. 487 to carry out an ideological anti-coal, anti-economic development agenda. Environmental groups have continually abused the legal privileges extended to them under s. 487 of the EPBC Act by launching largely frivolous legal challenges,” said Mr Wild.

“Delaying or preventing projects in Australia harms the environment because we have cleaner coal than the rest of the world. Fewer coal mines in Australia means more coal mines overseas, which will result in a lower quality environment.”

“Australia has some of the most stringent environmental laws in the world. Repealing s. 487 would not diminish Australia's high environmental standards, or the approval processes under the EPBC Act.”

“The Turnbull government must redouble efforts to repeal s. 487 and cut this environmental red tape that halts development and employment,” said Mr Wild.

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