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INDEPENDENT REPORT REVEALS ABC BIASED AGAINST FOSSIL FUELS

“As a taxpayer-funded broadcaster, the ABC is required to be impartial, balanced and objective. The ABC’s coverage of energy policy issues fails that test. Independent analysis commissioned by the Institute of Public Affairs reveals that the ABC is biased against fossil fuels, and biased in favour of renewable energy,” said James Paterson, director of communications at the free market think tank, the Institute of Public Affairs.

As reported in *The Australian* this morning, the IPA today released its landmark report into ABC bias, *Public broadcaster or green activist? How the ABC spins Australia’s energy choices*.

In March 2014 the IPA commissioned the independent media monitoring company iSentia to analyse the way the ABC covered energy policy issues through their reporting on the coal mining industry, the renewable energy industry and the coal seam gas industry. iSentia analysed 2,359 separate ABC reports on these industries over a six month period from 15 September 2013 to 15 March 2014.

The key findings of iSentia’s independent analysis are that:

- The ABC’s coverage of the renewable energy industry is highly favourable. 52% of ABC stories on the renewable energy industry were favourable and only 10.8% were unfavourable. 37.2% were neutral.
- The ABC’s coverage of the coal mining industry is unfavourable. Just 15.9% of ABC stories about the coal mining industry were favourable, whereas 31.6% of stories were unfavourable. 52.4% were neutral.
- The ABC’s coverage of the coal seam gas industry is highly unfavourable. Only 12.1% of stories about the coal seam gas industry were favourable, whilst 43.6% were unfavourable. 44.3% were neutral.

The report also found the ABC’s biased coverage of energy issues is a systemic problem. Bias remained consistent across all platforms and regions.

“The ABC’s bias problem is endemic. It won’t be solved with a new board or new management. Only structural change can fix the ABC’s bias problems. Privatising the ABC is the only way to ensure taxpayers’ money is not being misused to fund biased coverage of energy policy or any other issue,” said Mr Paterson.

A copy of *Public broadcaster or green activist? How the ABC spins Australia’s energy choices* can be [downloaded here](#).

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