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28 July 2016

ENERGY POLICY SHOULD FOCUS ON AFFORDABILITY AND RELIABILITY

Comments by new Environment and Energy Minister Josh Frydenberg about the reduced importance of coal in Australia's energy mix are disappointing and are at odds with the Government's 2015 *Energy White Paper*, according to free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs.

"The two most important features of an electricity network are affordability and reliability, and renewables have demonstrated that they can't yet deliver either" said Brett Hogan, Director of Research at the IPA.

"New generation coal-fired power stations use up to 40% less coal and release less carbon dioxide than many existing facilities for the same, reliable electricity output. If the Government were serious about pursuing energy and environmental goals at the same time, this would be the path to embrace, as many other countries in South East Asia have done."

"Just last year the *Energy White Paper* said that the Australian Government would '*seek to maintain stable and predictable policy settings across the range of areas that affect such investment decisions, while taking a technology-neutral approach.*'"

"Batteries and interconnectors are a band-aid solution to energy shortages. They don't actually generate electricity – they only store or carry the power that someone still has to produce."

"It is ironic that South Australia and Tasmania's response to their recent electricity problems involve building more interconnectors to access Victoria and New South Wales' coal power. This is the power which will no longer exist if renewable energy campaigners get their way."

"South Australia's current electricity supply and pricing issues, together with the Victorian Government's new commitment to 40 per cent renewables by 2025 are game changers. Today's policy makers will be judged harshly by future generations if they don't take corrective action while there is still time" said Mr Hogan.

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