

IPA MEDIA RELEASE

Institute of Public Affairs | Australia's leading free market think tank

22 June 2015

AUSTRALIAN COAL COULD GIVE 82 MILLION INDIANS ELECTRICITY

Increasing the supply of Australian coal to India could allow at least 82 million Indian people each year to access a regular and reliable source of electricity, according to a new report from free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs.

In an opinion article in *The Australian* today, Brett Hogan, Director of Energy and Innovation Policy at the Institute of Public Affairs and the author of the report, uses the report's findings to argue that expanding our coal exports will improve the lives of millions of Indians.

"According to the World Health Organisation, over 3 billion people still cook and heat their homes with materials like wood, crop leftovers and dung, and over 4 million people per year die from resulting illnesses," says Mr Hogan.

"In India alone, at least 300 million people have no access to electricity and around 815 million people still rely on these types of fuels for cooking."

"New research from the IPA released today demonstrates how increasing Australian coal exports from the Galilee Basin by up to 120 million tonnes annually could allow at least 82 million Indian people to access a regular and reliable source of electricity each year."

"Coal is a cheap and reliable source of electricity. It has powered the increased production and safe storage of food, clean drinking water, the mass manufacture of clothing, the ability to heat and cool our homes, better housing, access to and safe storage of medicine, and a choice of transport options in the western world over the last 200 years."

"Yet while the Indian Government is actively pursuing policies to provide a higher standard of living for its people, Australian coal activists want to deny them that choice."

"While solar and wind power may very well have a place in future world energy supply, not even the most earnest activist can change the laws of physics and force solar power to work at night or in cloudy weather, wind power to work in calm conditions, or hydroelectric power to work in times of drought or in areas without large rivers or mountains."

"Increasing the supply of Australian coal to India would permanently improve the lives of millions of people - a goal worthy of strong public and policymaker support," says Mr Hogan.

Mr Hogan's full report, *The life saving potential of coal*, is available here:

<http://www.ipa.org.au/publications/2386/the-life-saving-potential-of-coal>

For media and comment: Brett Hogan, Director of Energy and Innovation Policy, Institute of Public Affairs, on bhogan@ipa.org.au or 0407 273 884

**Institute of Public Affairs, Level 2, 410 Collins St. Melbourne
ph: 03 9600 4744 fax: 03 9602 4989 www.ipa.org.au**