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GREENS' 90 PER CENT RENEWABLE PLAN UNREALISTIC: IPA

The Australian Greens' proposal for a ninety per cent renewables target and the effective re-nationalisation of the electricity industry illustrates just how out of touch the environmental movement is, according to free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs.

"Ninety per cent renewables for a country like Australia with limited hydro-electric capabilities is pure fantasy," says Brett Hogan, Director of Energy and Innovation Policy at the Institute of Public Affairs.

"All this policy will achieve is increased unemployment in regional Australia and more expensive electricity as power stations and mines are permanently closed," says Mr Hogan.

Under the Greens' plans a new federal agency, Renew Australia, will join the CSIRO, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation to promote renewable energy. The Greens have also promised a new Clean Energy Transition Fund to 'assist' power station and mine workers that will lose their job.

"The last thing that Australia needs is a fourth federal government environmental agency spending more taxpayers' money on niche programs," says Mr Hogan.

"The Greens' approach is that the government will decide how much electricity people are allowed to use, and how they are allowed to access it."

"There is nowhere in the developed world where wind and solar power are able to effectively provide the consistent and affordable energy that is required in a modern industrial economy," says Mr Hogan.

The International Energy Agency's (IEA) recent *World Energy Outlook* found that fossil fuels will still be responsible for 75 per cent of the world's energy needs in 2040.

"If the world is to achieve the IEA's prediction of an extra 2.7 billion people gaining access to electricity by 2040, then all energy sources will need to be used. The Greens' 'war on coal' is actually a war on jobs and on energy security," says Mr Hogan.

"The challenge of feeding, heating, cooling, housing and transporting billions of people throughout the developing world means that Australia is well placed to supply high quality coal, gas and uranium to these growing markets - if our political system allows it," says Mr Hogan.

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