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MORE CLIMATE COUNCIL ALARMISM ON COAL

The Climate Council's new report *Galilee Basin – Unburnable Coal*, released today, is the latest piece of alarmism from the climate change lobby and ignores the increasing demand for coal throughout the developing world, according to free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs.

"China is the world's biggest producer, consumer and importer of coal. It consumes more coal each year than every other country in the world combined," says Brett Hogan, Director of Energy and Innovation at the Institute of Public Affairs.

"While China may be closing coal fired power stations in Beijing, it is also building 4,700 kilometres of transmission lines to connect Beijing and Shanghai with its coal mines and power stations in Inner Mongolia. It is simply moving power stations away from its major cities," says Mr Hogan.

India, where over 300 million people lack access to electricity and 815 million people burn wood, crop refuse and dung for cooking, has quadrupled coal use for electricity since 1990.

The International Energy Agency has projected that China and India will add an extra 382 and 342 gigawatts of additional coal-fired electricity capacity by 2040 respectively, and both are likely to build new generation power stations that need higher quality, lower emission Australian coal.

Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines are other nations in our region increasing coal fired electricity capacity and are potential markets for Galilee Basin coal.

"If the proposed Galilee Basin coal mines were as uneconomic as the climate change lobby pretends, then it wouldn't be spending so much time trying to harass developers into submission by downplaying the role of coal in providing reliable electricity, attacking the coal price, pursuing never-ending legal challenges, and lobbying banks not to fund projects," says Mr Hogan.

"Using the Norwegian Government Pension Fund to justify divestment, when this fund only exists due to Norwegian oil revenue, illustrates the hypocrisy of climate change campaigners, who are denying the developing world the same opportunities for electricity that we have been fortunate enough to enjoy in the west."

Earlier this week the IPA released a new paper which found that increasing coal exports from the Galilee Basin could allow at least 82 million Indian people each year to access a regular and reliable source of electricity.

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>

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