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## OXFAM REPORT – RIGHT PROBLEM, WRONG SOLUTION

Oxfam Australia's new report *Powering Up Against Poverty* correctly diagnoses the problem facing the developing world of a lack of access to the electricity grid but prescribes the wrong solution, according to Brett Hogan, Director of Energy and Innovation Policy at free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs.

*Powering Up Against Poverty* argues that "Australia must rapidly phase out coal," and that the solution to a lack of electricity in the developing world is the deployment of small-scale renewable power.

"Rather than pushing developing countries to adopt intermittent solar and wind solutions, environmentalists should support accelerated access to the electricity grid," says Mr Hogan.

"830 million people around the world gained access to electricity for the first time between 1990 and 2010 due to coal, largely in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. But more than 1.2 billion people throughout the world still have no access to electricity," says Mr Hogan.

According to the World Health Organisation, around 3 billion people throughout the world still cook and heat their homes by burning wood, crop waste, dung and other materials in household stoves and fireplaces. Over 4 million people die each year from resulting air pollution.

In June 2015 the IPA released the report *The Life Saving Potential of Coal* which explained how Australian coal exports could help 82 million Indians access electricity each year.

"Exporting more Australian coal will ensure more people in the developing world are given access to electricity and lifted out of poverty," says Mr Hogan.

The IPA's research paper, *The Life Saving Potential of Coal*, is available to download [here](#).

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