



24 November 2009

Proposed emissions trading scheme amendments will sacrifice regional jobs but not cut emissions

The Australian Coal Industry today expressed profound disappointment at the Federal government's proposed amendments to the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) legislation.

Executive Director of the ACA Ralph Hillman said the proposed legislation will put jobs at risk in regional Australia for no environmental benefit. This is bad news for the Hunter, the Illawarra and the mining regions of Central Queensland. This package represents less than 10% of the \$14.5bn CPRS bill that the coal industry faces over the next ten years, while other trade exposed industries will receive 65-95% rebate", Mr Hillman said.

"The proposed assistance for gassy mines till 2015 will still leave jobs at risk. The risk to jobs will re-double post 2015 as the assistance dries up", Mr Hillman said.

Looking beyond existing mines it is obvious that this new tax will make Australia less attractive to coal mine investment particularly as there is no provision for new mines or mine expansions in the package.

It is irrefutable that the loss of coal mine production and jobs to overseas competitors will not decrease global emissions or provide any benefit to the global environment. Every tonne of coal not produced in Australia as a result of to this new tax will simply be produced by our competitors. No other country plans to introduce a tax on coal mines and even the EU and the United States have excluded coal mine emissions from their Emissions Trading Schemes.

This package also fails to tackle the problem of coal mines that are 'captured' by power stations whose long term contracts do not provide for the pass through of CPRS costs; this could lead to interruptions in coal supply to power stations with consequences for energy security.

"I have been travelling through the coal regions of Central Queensland and New South Wales and people I've met during our grassroots campaign want to see action to reduce harmful carbon in the atmosphere. However, they agree that there is no point in cutting jobs for no reduction in global carbon emissions. Clearly their message has not been heard.

"Our industry is spending a billion dollars over the next 10 years in developing technology to cut carbon emissions from coal fired power stations by up to 90% and we support the introduction of a fair emissions trading scheme. Coal wants to pay its fair share. It's the unfair share we object to", Mr Hillman concluded.

[More](#)

For further information please contact:

Ralph Hillman
Executive Director
0429-083-820

Media Enquiries
Christian Taubenschlag
0421-774-748

Biography: Ralph Hillman Executive Director

Mr Hillman was Ambassador for the Environment and chief negotiator for Australia on the Kyoto Protocol from 1998 to 2002. He was appointed as Executive Director of the Australian Coal Association in August 2007.

He was Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the DECD from 1995 to 1998. From 1994 to 1995 Mr Hillman was Chief Economist in the Department. He was formerly a senior career officer of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and has extensive experience in multilateral economic policy and diplomacy.