

Media release

16 September 2014

Australia Institute calls on the Minerals Council members to come clean and apologise.

The Australian Institute says the Minerals Council members – the large, mostly foreign-owned, mining companies – should explain the attacks on The Australia Institute.

The Minerals Council has claimed that The Australia Institute is being directed by a political party.

This is untrue and defamatory. The Minerals Council should immediately desist from making such claims and apologise.

The Australia Institute is a philanthropically funded independent think tank that takes no money from any political party. We undertake research which we discuss with all sides of politics and a wide spectrum of policy makers.

The Australia Institute stands by its recent report ‘Mining in the Age of Entitlement,’ about taxpayer support to the mining sector.

When we released our report in June, the Minerals Council claimed there were “no” subsidies. We are pleased they have withdrawn this claim.

They should now join The Australia Institute in calling on Treasury departments at state and federal level to do a full, annual and independently verified audit of mining subsidies, so that these matters can be properly discussed.

It is time for the big mining companies to stop hiding behind the Minerals Council.

The likes of BHP, Rio Tinto and Adani Mining should explain the actions of their industry association. The Australia Institute challenges any of their CEO’s to debate the issues.

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