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## **News release**

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### **Australia at bottom of renewable energy funding table**

Support for the renewable energy industries in Australia is substantially lower than in most other industrialised countries, according to a soon-to-be-released report prepared for The Australia Institute, a public interest think tank.

According to the report, the Australian Government spends around \$4 per person each year on renewable energy, much less than per person spending in the USA and Japan and several smaller European countries.

The report is to appear as the Federal Government announces it is withdrawing funding for research into renewable energy and putting more funds into the mining and fossil energy industries.

“In a country experiencing the severe effects of climate change, taking scarce research dollars from the renewable energy sector and giving it to the mining sector is bizarre”, said the Institute’s Executive Director, Dr Clive Hamilton.

“The Science Minister’s reported belief that it is the mining industry’s ‘turn’ for funding demonstrates a woeful lack of understanding of what is at stake. International momentum on climate change has already initiated a revolution in energy technologies that within decades will make fossil fuels redundant.

“Perhaps Senator McGauran will next decide that it is the turn of the steam engine to receive research funding.

“The mining industry is a multi-billion dollar industry that has the capacity to undertake its own research year in-year out. The renewable energy industry is in its formative stages, and the withdrawal of millions of dollars in research funding is a serious blow to its future.

“Japan has recently decided to tax imports of Australian coal. If the Federal Government has its way, in 20 years time instead of exporting coal to Japan we will be importing renewable energy technology from it,” said Dr Hamilton.