

AN OPEN LETTER



To President Hollande and World Leaders

We, the undersigned, urge you to put coal exports on the agenda at the 2015 Paris COP21 climate summit and to help the world's governments negotiate a global moratorium on new coal mines and coal mine expansions, as called for by President Anote Tong of the Republic of Kiribati, and Pacific Island nations.

While world leaders discuss emission reduction targets, a small number of countries with large coal reserves, including Australia, are planning to massively expand their coal exports. These plans are incompatible with the world's objective of limiting global warming below dangerous levels.

Australia has a larger share of the seaborne coal market than Saudi Arabia has of the world oil market. Over the next 10 years Australia plans to double its coal exports.

If it goes ahead, the Carmichael mine in Queensland's Galilee Basin would export more than 2 billion tonnes of coal over its lifetime. And that's just one mine. Australia has dozens of coal projects on the drawing board.

Furthermore, these coal export plans will have severe negative impacts on the health and wellbeing of citizens all over the world.

- Australia's coal contributes to climate change, with its global health impacts.
- Each phase of coal's lifecycle produces pollutants that affect human health, from mining to disposal of contaminated water and tailings, transportation, washing, combustion, and disposing of post-combustion wastes.
- Communities in which coal mining or burning occurs have been shown to suffer significant health impacts.
- The health and climate costs of coal are unseen. In reality coal is an expensive fuel.

A global moratorium on new coal mines and coal mine expansions could make Paris COP21 truly historic.

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