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## Australian Coal Association launches campaign against new emissions tax on coal mines

The Australian Coal Association today launched a major advertising campaign in the Illawarra warning of possible mine closures and job losses caused by the Federal government's proposed new emissions tax on coal mines.

Executive Director of the ACA Ralph Hillman said the government's proposed tax will potentially make some Illawarra mines uneconomic and will prevent others from opening leading to thousands of jobs disappearing in the nation's coal industry.

"The Australian coal industry accepts the science of global warming and supports action to reduce harmful carbon in the atmosphere", Mr Hillman said.

Mr Hillman said 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.

"However the Federal Government's proposed carbon reduction scheme is badly flawed in its treatment of coal. The proposed plan would not cut carbon emissions while costing the Illawarra thousands of coal industry jobs", Mr Hillman said.

Launching the "Let's Cut Emissions not Jobs" campaign in Wollongong today, Mr Hillman said regions such as the Illawarra will be hard hit by the proposed new tax on coal mines that will cost the industry more than \$14 billion over 10 years.

Independent economic modelling of the impacts of the proposed carbon reduction scheme predict that 16 coal mines will close prematurely and more than 9000 direct and indirect jobs will be lost in the first nine years of the scheme.

The ACA conducted extensive public research in regional Australia to gauge the level of community understanding and knowledge about the Federal Government's new carbon tax regime.

"This research confirms that that coal mining communities have not been properly warned of the damaging consequences of the federal government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme in its current form on regional Australia", said Mr Hillman.

"This advertising campaign is providing people in the Illawarra with accurate information about the new carbon tax and explaining how it will affect coal mining communities and other centres heavily dependent on a strong coal industry.

"People need to understand that mines will close and thousands jobs could go as a direct result of the proposed tax. Even more frustrating is the reality that global carbon emissions will not be reduced.

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"Every tonne of coal not produced in Australia as a result of to this tax will simply be produced by our competitors who are not being penalised in the same way by their governments.

"Both the United States and European Union have specifically rejected taxing coal mines and both produce far higher emissions than we do.

"There is time for the government to change tack on this flawed scheme.

"The new tax is expected to be voted on by the Senate in November and we are asking people to contact their local MPs to voice their concern about the consequences for coalmining communities and regions.

"We think it's a fair question - Why should Australian jobs go while carbon emissions stay the same?" Mr Hillman concluded.

People can learn more and lodge their protest by visiting our website [www.CutEmissionsNotJobs.com.au](http://www.CutEmissionsNotJobs.com.au)

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#### **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 OECD 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.

He also served in other senior positions in the Department and at overseas missions in Brussels, Brasilia, the OECD and at the Asian Development Bank.