



CLIMATE AND
HEALTH
ALLIANCE

Media release

29 June 2013

Health groups in Australia support global action to end the age of coal

The national coalition of health groups, the Climate and Health Alliance, has today expressed its support for the international efforts to “end the age of coal”.

Environment and community groups are rallying internationally on June 29 to highlight the harms being caused to people, to global ecosystems, and the climate from burning coal.

Climate and Health Alliance Convenor Fiona Armstrong said the evidence was very clear: coal is one of the major drivers of climate change and burning coal kills hundreds of thousands of people each year.

“Australia is one of the world’s biggest exporters of coal. If proposed Australian coal exports go ahead, the emissions produced from burning this coal would push the global climate system into a danger zone. Climate scientists, the World Bank and the International Energy Agency all say we cannot continue to burn coal, and yet the industry and governments ignore these warnings.”

The Climate and Health Alliance says the health and climate costs of coal are not reflected in its price, but when costs to health systems are included, coal is more expensive than other, cleaner, healthier and safer alternatives.

“Health and medical groups are saying: we must stop burning coal – both for our own electricity supply and in other countries via our exports. Coal is killing Australians and Australian coal is killing others – this has to stop,” Ms Armstrong said.

Actions are being taken around the world on June 29th in a coordinated international effort to highlight the risks to health, climate and environment from coal – for more information see:

<http://www.endtheageofcoal.org/>

The Climate and Health Alliance is a coalition of healthcare stakeholder organisations with a common agenda of advocacy for climate action to protect and promote health. For member details see here: <http://caha.org.au/about/members/>

For media enquiries or to speak to health experts regarding coal and health, contact Fiona Armstrong convenor@caha.org.au or 0438900005.