



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Science and Resources

Australian Government

The 34th Clean Coal Day International Symposium for Japan Carbon Frontier Organization (JCOAL)

Presenter: Dan Glover – Counsellor for Industry, Science & Resources, Australian Embassy Tokyo
| 4 September 2025

Our purpose is to help the government build a better future for all Australians through enabling a productive, resilient and sustainable economy, enriched by science and technology.

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Australia will work closely with Japan



“Japan is one of Australia’s **most trusted and valued** trading partners and **Australia** is rock solid in its **commitment** to remain a **reliable and stable** source of **resources and energy**”

[Minister King – Australia-Japan Joint Business Conference, Nagoya – 23 October 2024](#)

On 29 January 2025, **Mr. Muto Yoji**, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, held a meeting with **Ms. Madeleine King**, Australia’s Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia, to exchange views on cooperation between Japan and Australia in the fields of resources and energy.

Australia will remain a stable source of energy



The Hon. Madeleine King MP, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia



Australia has an important
reputation as a global supplier
of energy and a key partner in
ensuring energy security in our
region”

Minister King, Media Release, June 2025

Role of the Australian Government

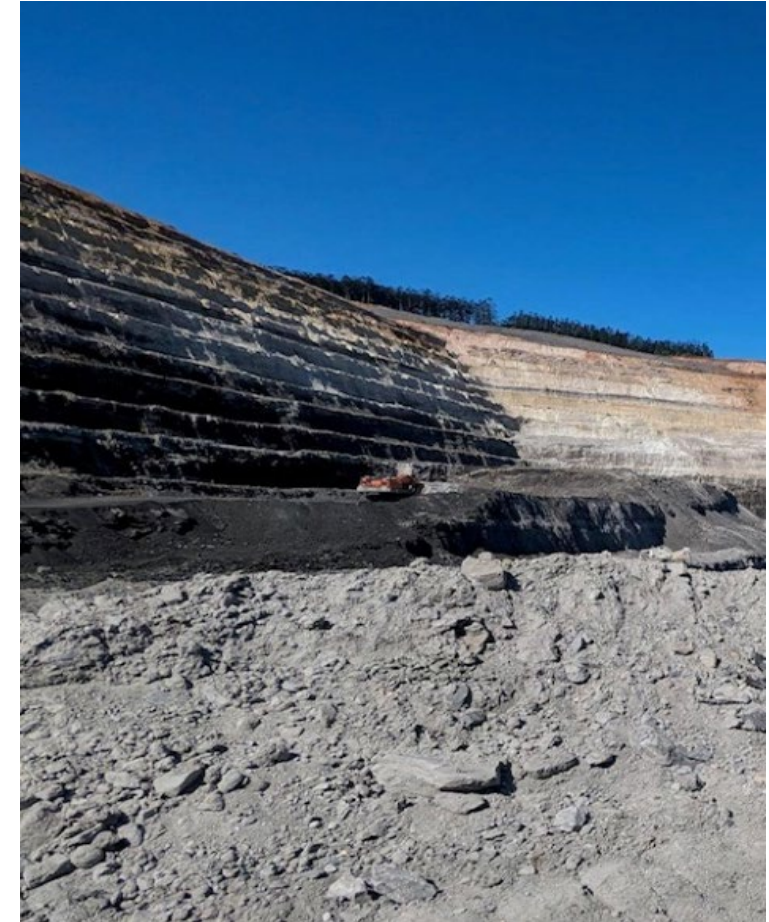
Constitutional responsibilities

- Australia is a Federation of States which each have their own constitution, government and laws.
- The Commonwealth has exclusive powers for some matters (States cannot make laws).
- The Commonwealth and states have concurrent powers (both can make laws).
- States can make laws over matters not specifically listed in the Constitution of Australia.

	Federal	State
Mining rights		Grant and regulate exploration and mining titles
Taxation/Royalties	Income tax/Corporate tax	Royalties
Environmental approvals	Matters of National Environmental Significance	Management of contaminated land, protection of threatened species, water rights, pollution and waste disposal, and rehabilitation
Emissions	Climate Change Act reporting and Safeguard Mechanism	State-level emissions reduction targets
Foreign Investment	Foreign Investment Review Board	

Coal mining policy in Australia

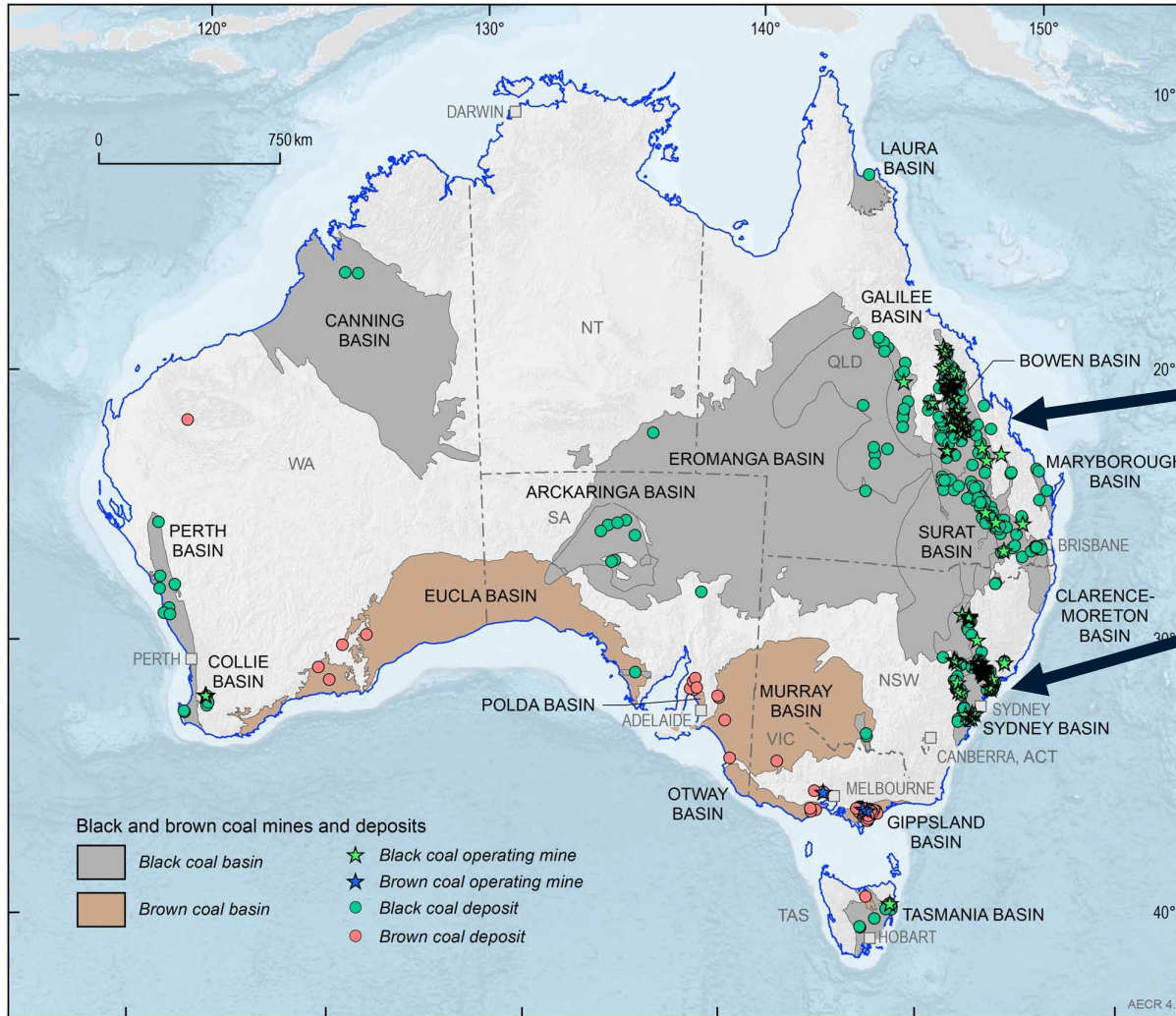
- The Commonwealth government does not operate, or invest in, coal mines.
- The Commonwealth government cannot direct any coal mine operators to produce or supply coal to a particular customer or country.
- There are many policies across the Commonwealth Government which impact on coal mining.
- The Commonwealth Government, as well as the New South Wales and Queensland Governments, are committed to remaining a reliable supplier of coal to Japan.



Meandu Mine, Queensland

Coal mining industry overview

Australian coal industry update



- Australia has **93 operating black coal mines**, with most of the production in;

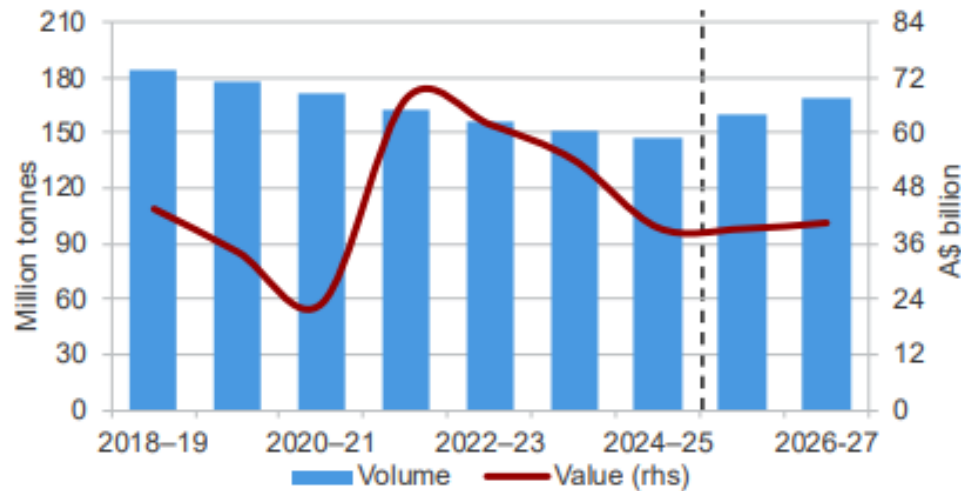
- Queensland (56%) and

- New South Wales (43%).

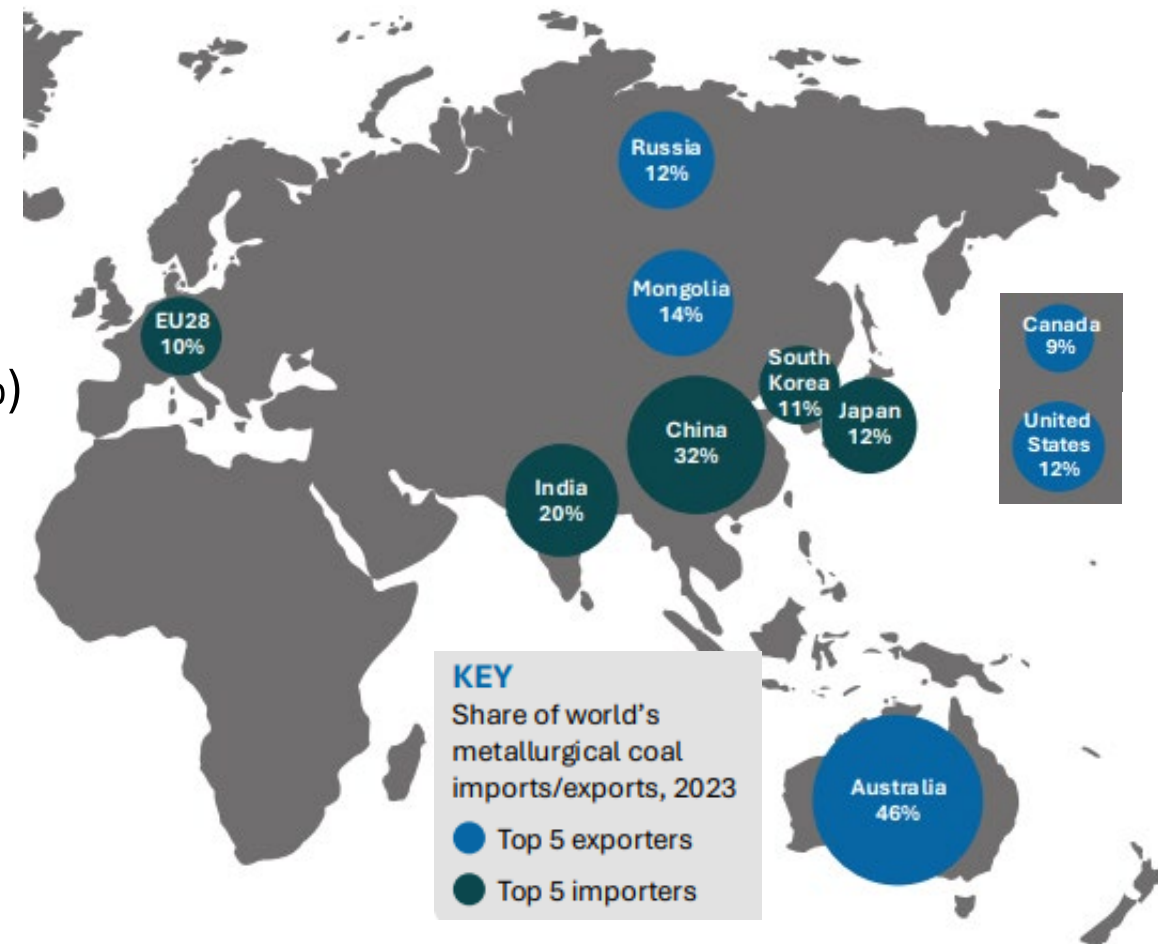
- Globally, Australia is the **fifth largest producer**, the **second largest exporter**, and has the **third largest reserves of coal** in the world.

Metallurgical coal – Australia is the world's largest exporter

- Value of exports expected to remain stable, while volumes increasing to 169 Mt in 2026–27.
- Japan is Australia's second biggest export destination, after India.
- In 2024, Australia exported 152.9 Mt of metallurgical coal, including 35.8 Mt to Japan (23%)

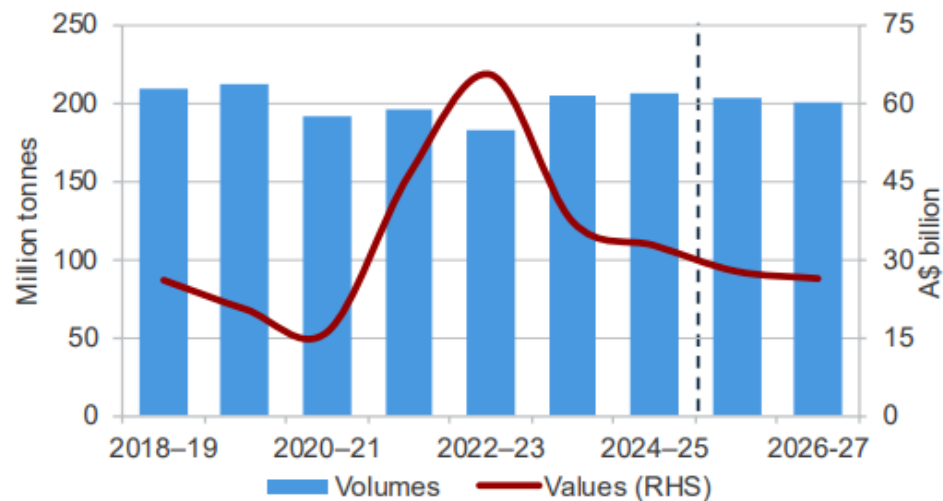


Source: ABS (2025). Department of Industry, Science and Resources (2025)

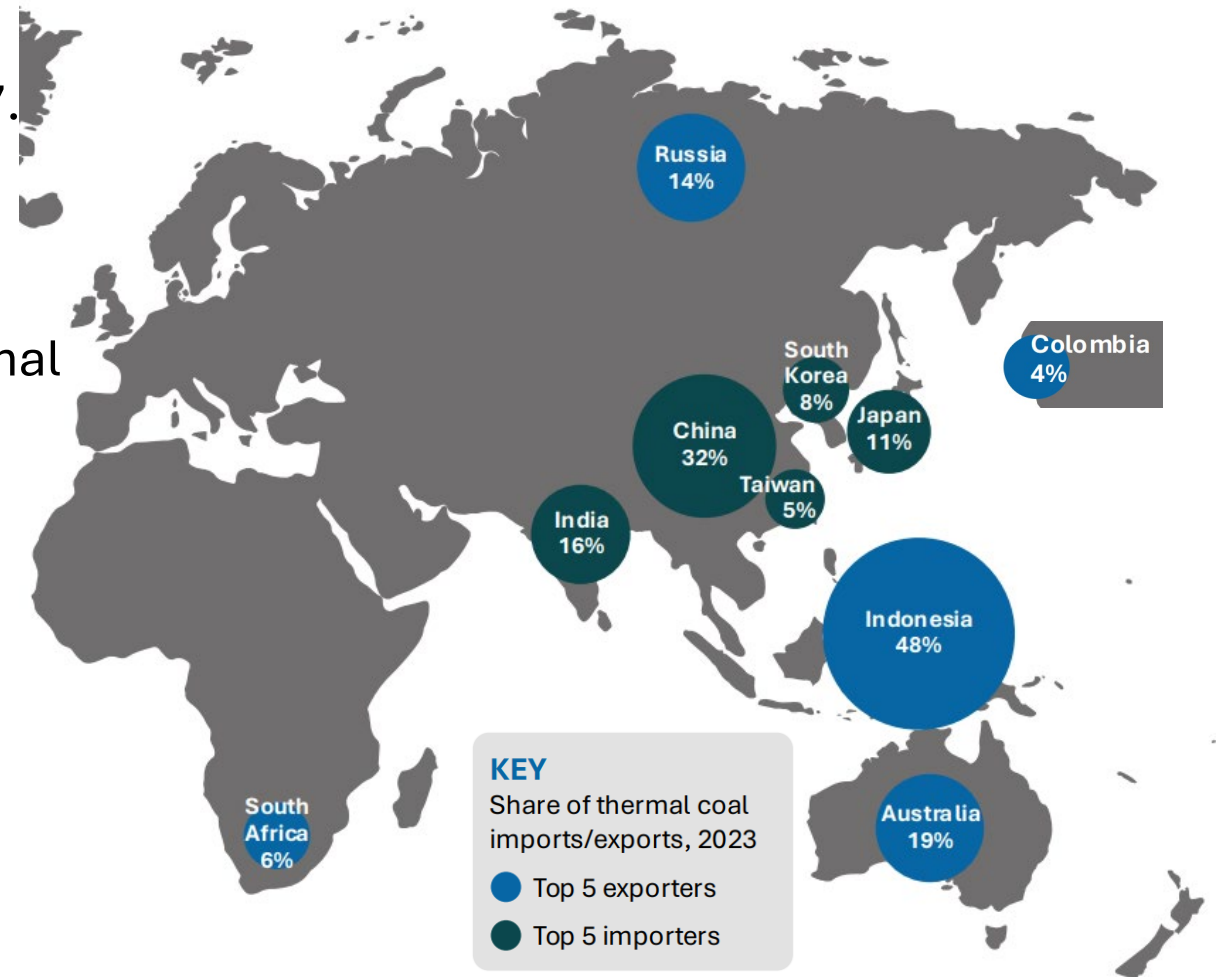


Thermal coal – Australia is the second largest exporter

- Values expected to decrease, with export volumes easing to around 200 Mt in 2026–27.
- Japan was Australia's biggest export destination for thermal coal in 2024.
- In 2024, Australia exported 208.9 Mt of thermal coal, including 74.6 Mt to Japan (36%).



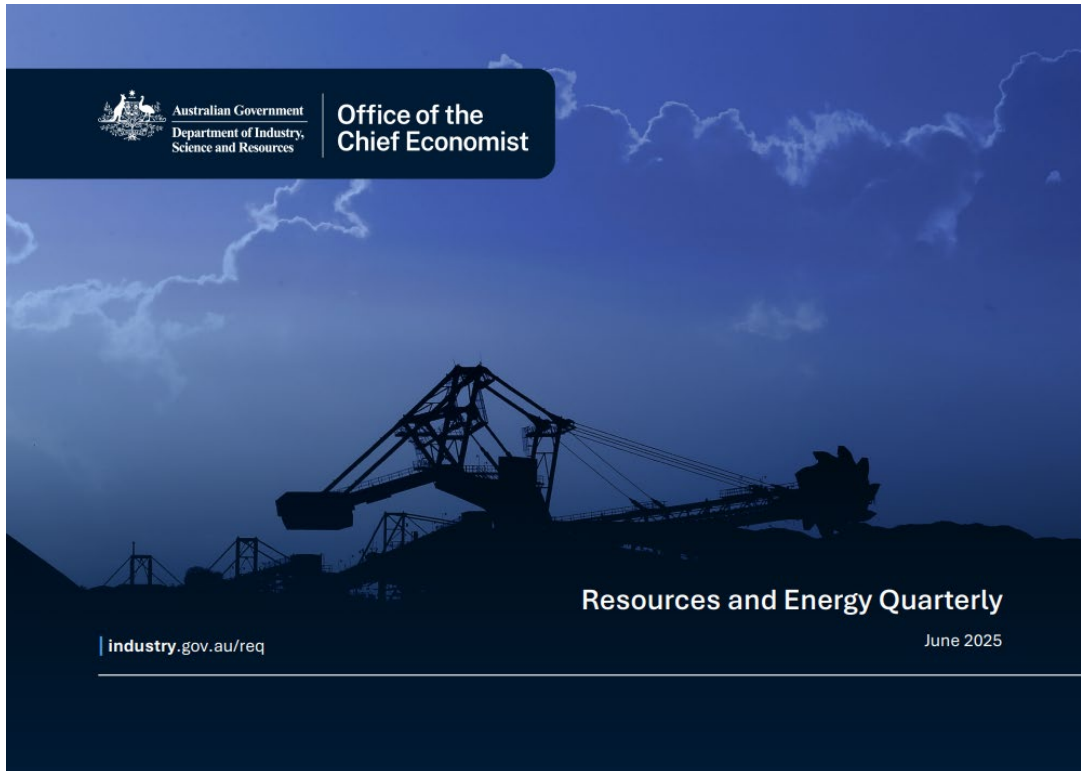
Source: ABS (2025). Department of Industry, Science and Resources (2025)



KEY
Share of thermal coal imports/exports, 2023

- Top 5 exporters
- Top 5 importers

Australian resources industry data

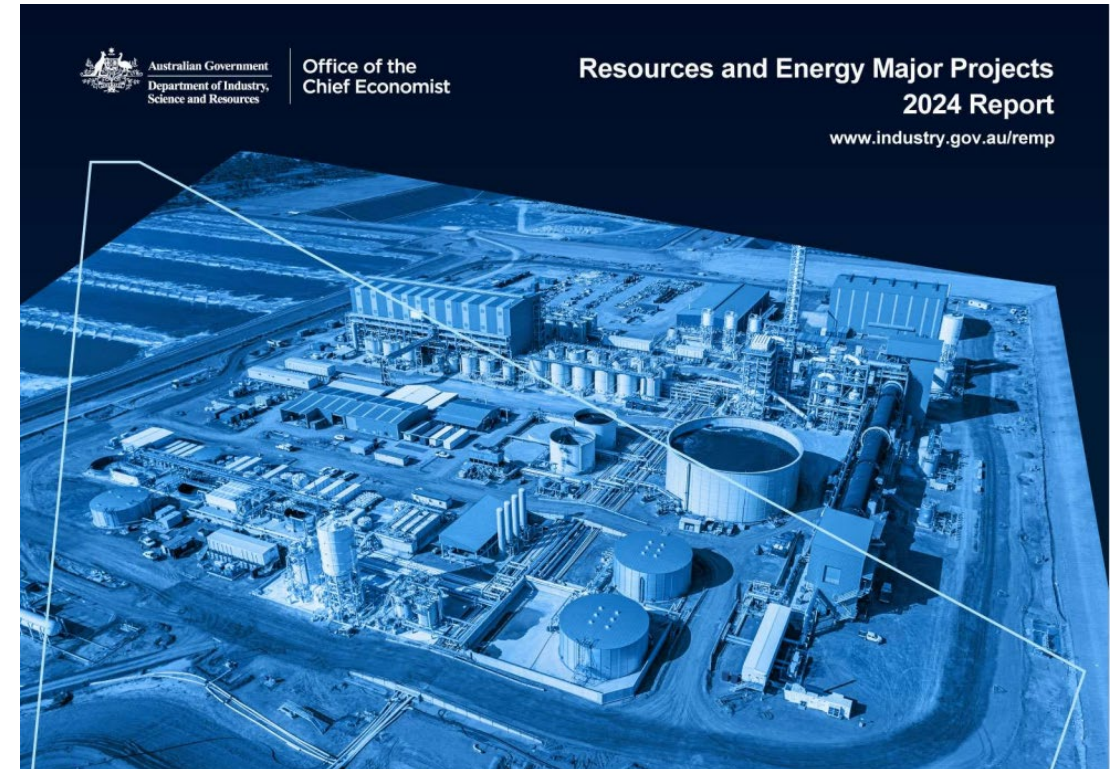


“REQ”

Resources and Energy Quarterly, 4 times per year

<https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/resources-and-energy-quarterly-june-2025>

| [industry.gov.au](https://www.industry.gov.au)



“REMP”

Resources and Energy Major Projects, 1 time per year

<https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/resources-and-energy-major-projects-2024>

Emissions reduction policies

Australian emissions reduction targets

- **Australia (Commonwealth) has legislated emissions reductions goals** in the *Climate Change Act 2022*.
- These goals commit Australia to:
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to **43%** below 2005 levels by **2030**, and
 - Achieve **net zero emissions by 2050**.
- The **NSW and QLD State Governments** have recently announced new Emissions Reduction Targets:
 - NSW – 70% reduction by 2035
 - QLD – 75% reduction by 2035



Climate Change Act 2022

No. 37, 2022

Compilation No. 1

Compilation date: 12 April 2023

Includes amendments up to: Act No. 14, 2023

Registered: 2 May 2023

Net Zero 2050 Plan and the Sectoral Decarbonisation Plans

- The Australian Government is developing a **Net Zero 2050 Plan**.
- This will include preparing six **sectoral decarbonisation plans**.
 - The decarbonisation plan for the **resources sector** will consider if further measures to address coal mine methane emissions are required.

Sectoral decarbonisation plans:

- electricity and energy
- industry
- **resources**
- the built environment
- agriculture and land
- transport

Safeguard Mechanism - General

- The reformed Safeguard Mechanism commenced on 1 July 2023.
- Covers facilities with direct (scope 1) emissions of more than 100,000 tonnes carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent a year.
- Sets legislated emissions targets ('baselines') on the net greenhouse gas emissions of covered facilities.
- Baselines will decline gradually and predictably by 4.9% a year, to support Australia's emission reduction targets of 43 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050.
- Facility baselines are production-adjusted to avoid penalising economic growth.
- Baselines for new facilities (including coal mines) are set based on international best practice, adapted for an Australian context.
- Facilities have access to flexible compliance options: Australian carbon credit units (ACCUs) can be used to offset emissions; tailored treatment for trade-exposed facilities; banking and borrowing; and multi-year monitoring periods.
- All covered facilities are required to use published, Government-determined production variables and be on production-adjusted baselines.

Safeguard Mechanism – Coal

Production variables (PV) for coal mining facilities

- Coal mining PV (no distinction is made between thermal and metallurgical coal, open-cut or underground mining).

Baselines for existing coal mining facilities

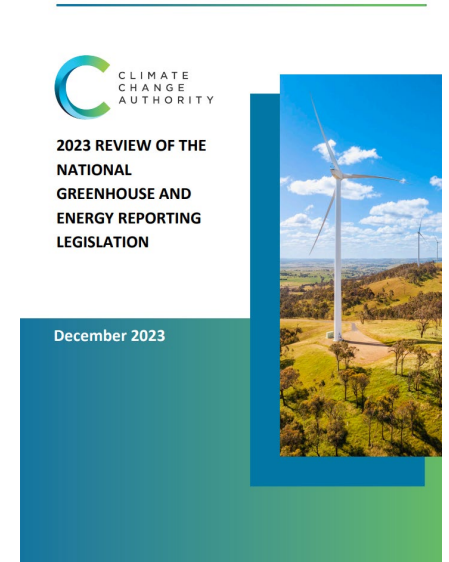
- Set using a hybrid approach, with the coal mining PV initially weighted toward ‘site-specific’ emissions intensity values, and transitioning to equal parts ‘industry-average’ and ‘site-specific’ emissions intensity values by 2029-30.
- E.g. An existing coal mine’s ‘site-specific’ emission intensities determines 95 per cent of its baseline in 2023-24.
- This approach introduces emissions reduction costs in manageable increments, and recognises the wide variability in the emissions intensity of coal mines.

Baselines for new coal mines

- Set based on international best practice, adapted for an Australian context.

NGER Review & Amendments

- The Climate Change Authority (CCA) is required to review the operation of the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 (NGER Act) every five years.
- The CCA's 2023 review undertook broad consultation and put forward 25 recommendations for the government to consider.
- The government agreed to many of the recommendations, and amendments started on 1 July 2025.
- They will apply to future NGER reports, starting with those submitted by 31 October 2026 for the 2025–26 NGER reporting year.
- The amendments do not affect obligations relating to reports to be submitted by 31 October 2025 for the 2024–25 reporting year.
- <https://cer.gov.au/news-and-media/news/2025/june/nger-legislation-amendments-2025-26-reporting-year>



Environmental regulation policies

Environmental & Investment Policy

- “The Australian Government is working to ensure we have a clear and inviting regulatory system for investors that takes into account environmental considerations and the interests of local communities.”
 - [*Minister King - Speech, Tokyo, 29 January 2024*](#)
- We are a country that **runs an open economy**, and we will look after our national interest.
- We **depend upon foreign capital**, and we **welcome investment**.
- The **government's role is to provide investment certainty**.
- Financing is a commercial matter for companies.

Project pipeline and exploration

- There are currently **7 coal committed projects** in Australia, valued at AUD\$3.65 billion.
- Exploration spending remains high
- In 2024, coal **exploration** expenditure totalled \$329.2 million (GA).

Project	Company	State	Annual Estimated New Capacity (mt)	Resource
Bulga Optimisation Project mod 3 and Bulga Underground mod 7	Glencore	NSW	6.6	Thermal and metallurgical coal
Centurion	Peabody	QLD	5	Metallurgical coal
Hillalong	Shandong Energy Group	QLD	4.2	Thermal and metallurgical coal
Mammoth Underground (formerly Curragh Extension Project)	Coronado Global	QLD	2	Thermal and metallurgical coal
Maxwell Underground Mine	Malabar Coal	NSW	4.7	Metallurgical coal
Vickery	Whitehaven Coal	NSW	8	Thermal and metallurgical coal
Wilton-Fairhill	Futura Resources	QLD	3	Metallurgical coal

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act)

- The EPBC Act is Australia's main national environmental legislation. It provides for the protection and management of nationally and internationally important matters including plants, animals, habitats and places.
- Any project that may significantly impact these important matters must be referred for assessment to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment.
 - The public must be provided the opportunity to make comment on projects. We expect proponents to consult local communities, including Traditional Owners.
 - Sometimes projects may also need to be assessed under state or territory environment legislation.
 - Any approval follows rigorous assessment. If approved, there will usually be approval conditions that must be complied with.
 - The DCCEE website can provide you with guidance on your obligations and our processes.

Recent Coal Mine EPBC Approvals

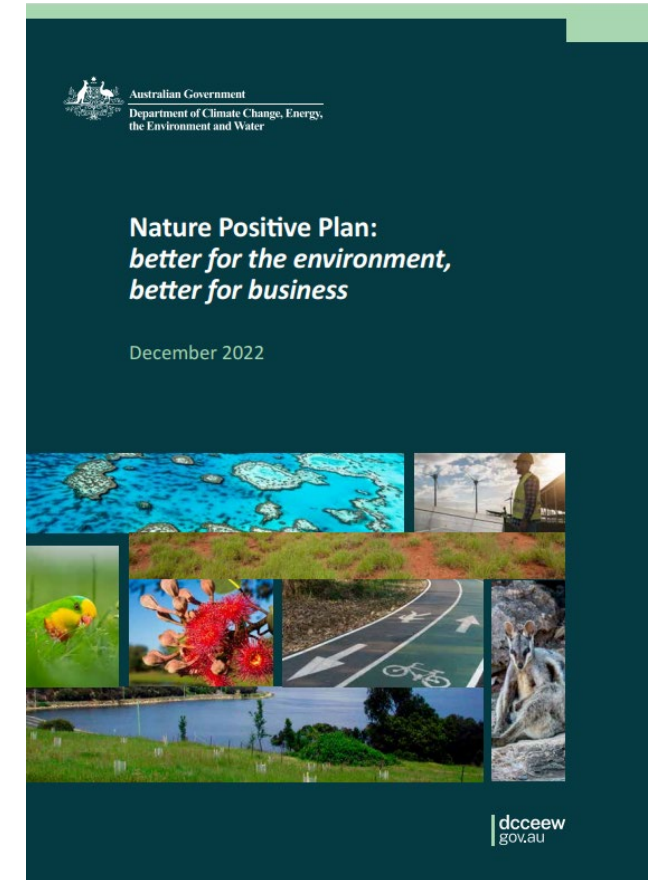
In December 2024, the Environment Minister made four environmental decisions:

- **Boggabri** coal mine extension approved
 - NSW (thermal and met coal) - Idemitsu / Chugoku Electric / Nippon Steel
- **Caval Ridge** coal mine extension approved
 - Queensland's Bowen Basin, (met coal) - BHP Mitsubishi Alliance
- **Lake Vermont Meadowbrook** coal mine extension approved
 - Queensland, (met coal, some thermal) - Marubeni / Zashvin / Anglo American / AMCI / Sojitz
- **Vulcan South** coal mine recommended for approval
 - Queensland, (met coal) – Vitrinite Pty Ltd (*DCCEEW approved 10 Jan 2025*)



Nature Positive Plan reforms

- The Government delivered stage one of the Nature Positive Plan to establish the Nature Repair Market last year.
- This followed extensive consultation with environmental groups, businesses, states, territories, and other stakeholders, and will help to incentivise actions that contribute to nature repair.
- The new Minister for the Environment and Water, Senator the Hon Murray Watt, has been engaging with stakeholders on how to progress the next stages of the reforms.



Conclusion

- The Australian Government knows how important coal is for Japan's manufacturing and energy security.
- We are committed to remaining a reliable supplier of coal.
- Australia's coal sector is internationally competitive.
- It will always operate to the highest safety, environmental and ethical standards.
- Decarbonising coal extraction (mining) will be an important focus for the sector in the coming years.

