

Dirty coal still king

That's just plain reality unfortunately.

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FORGET concerns about global warming. Forget the effect of renewables, or nuclear power or energy-saving technologies. The coal market is facing 20 years of solid growth and Australia will be a leading beneficiary, according to the Federal Government's economics adviser.

In a report, Australian Coal Exports to 2025, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics says global consumption of black coal will grow by 52 per cent to 7.6 billion tonnes by 2025.

It expects most of the growth to come from China and India. Consumption in developing Asia will climb from 2.45 billion tonnes last year to 4.3 billion tonnes by 2025. Those areas will account for 57 per cent of world coal consumption in 2025 as coal-fired power generation rises.

Only Europe, where coal burnt will drop from 640 million tonnes to 450 million tonnes, will experience an actual drop in consumption.

ABARE predicts North America will use 300 million more tonnes of coal in 2025 than in 2005.