

Quarterly Essay 33

Guy Pearse

Quarry Vision: Coal, Climate Change and the End of the Resources Boom

Australia's response to climate change must truly baffle outsiders. Why do our leaders pretend that they are leading the world in the battle against global warming? When do environmental risks outweigh economic benefits? Why dig deeper when the rest of the world is looking for alternatives to coal?

This is an essay about "quarry vision," the belief that Australia's greatest asset is its mineral and energy resources – coal above all. How has this distorted our national politics and stymied action on climate change? In this powerful essay about the national interest, Guy Pearse dissects the Rudd government's climate change response: from the Garnaut report to the silver bullet of "clean coal" and beyond. He exposes the shadowy world of the carbon lobbyists; how they think, operate and advance their agenda. He discusses the future of the coal industry and challenges the economic orthodoxy. Quarry vision, he argues, is a trap and a blind faith we can no longer afford.

"A generation ago, our leaders showed courage and vision in pushing for unilateral trade liberalisation – they knew it was good for Australia no matter how fast others acted. They were right to turn Australia's economy outward, and the establishment they challenged was wrong. Today the generation that was right on trade liberalisation has much of it wrong on climate change. They now wear the establishment mantle, and it is their turn to be challenged."

GUY PEARSE, *QUARRY VISION*

Guy Pearse is a former member of the Liberal Party and was a speechwriter for former environment minister Robert Hill. He has also been an industry lobbyist, consultant and spin doctor. He exposed the politics behind Australia's response to climate change on *Four Corners* and in his 2007 book *High & Dry*.

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Events

Sydney

Join Guy Pearse to discuss his Quarterly Essay *Quarry Vision: Coal, Climate Change and the End of the Resources Boom*

Date: Tuesday 17 March

Time: 6.30pm for 7pm start

Venue: Gleebooks

49 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe

Tickets: \$10/\$7 concession. Gleeclub welcome. To book phone (02) 9660 2333 or visit www.gleebooks.com.au

Melbourne

Guy Pearse and Peter Mares in conversation

Join Guy Pearse and Peter Mares from ABC Radio National's *The National Interest* to discuss Guy Pearse's Quarterly Essay *Quarry Vision: Coal, Climate Change and the End of the Resources Boom*

Date: Thursday 19 March

Time: 6pm for 6.30pm start

Venue: Experimedia, The State Library of Victoria

328 Swanston St, Melbourne.

Tickets: Free event, all welcome. Please book through admin@blackincbooks.com

Brisbane

Join Guy Pearse to discuss his Quarterly Essay *Quarry Vision: Coal, Climate Change and the End of the Resources Boom*

Date: Thursday 26 March

Time: 6pm for a 6.30pm start

Venue: Avid Reader Bookstore

193 Boundary St, West End

Tickets: \$5. To book phone (07) 3846 3422

Canberra

Join Guy Pearse to discuss his Quarterly Essay *Quarry Vision: Coal, Climate Change and the End of the Resources Boom*

Date: Wednesday 1 April

Time: 6pm-7.30pm

Venue: Coombs Lecture Theatre

Building 8a, Fellows Rd, ANU

Tickets: Free event, all welcome. Please register attendance for this lecture at www.anu.edu.au/climatechange