MEDIA RELEASE
MINERALS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

CLIMATE COMMISSION REPORT: THE CRITICAL DECADE
Statement from Mitchell Hooke, Chief Executive Officer, Minerals Council of Australia

Today’s Climate Commission report calling for an end to the Australian coal industry crosses the line from scientific analysis into taxpayer-funded environmental activism.

The report comes after a range of extreme green groups promoted an end to the Australian coal industry in a secret campaign blueprint. The ‘Stopping the Coal Export Boom’ blueprint outlined a plan to eliminate the Australian coal industry because they claimed it “corrupts our democracy and threatens the global climate”.

Both statements are without any foundation, so why is a taxpayer-funded agency with a charter that demands scientific rigour following the same approach as the radical green movement?

There would be severe economic consequences if Australia’s coal industry was eliminated and no tangible environmental dividend.

Eliminating the Australian coal industry would reduce Australia’s GDP by between $29 billion and $36 billion per year. It would reduce Australian jobs by almost 200,000 and reduce income to the Commonwealth by $6 billion.

The elimination of the coal industry would also devastate the New South Wales and Queensland state economies for no climate change gain.

Global coal production and consumption is increasing. That would not change if Australia ceased mining coal as we have about six per cent of the world’s black coal reserves. It would just mean coal was sourced from other nations.

If the Climate Commission wants to eliminate the Australian coal industry, it should identify how Australia would replace the jobs and many billions of dollars in export and other revenue that would be lost to the economy.

Rather than backing extremist proposals, the Climate Commission should be promoting the benefits of carbon capture and storage as a means of reducing emissions from coal. You cannot have climate change management without a global clean coal solution.