

Probus Neutral Bay Guest Speaker – Tues.9th March. 2021

PETER JAMES – A member of Sydney Probus



“Prospects for Australian Coal in the Current Environment”

Coal is a cornerstone Australian industry built on the efforts of hard working Australians with the majority living in regional areas. The industry employs around 50,000 workers, with another 120,000 indirect jobs supported by the coal industry.

In 2018-19 Australia exported 210 million tonnes of thermal (energy) coal worth \$25.9 billion and 184 million tonnes of metallurgical (steel-making) coal worth \$43.6 billion. In the same year the industry paid over \$6 billion in royalties to the state governments. In 2019 coal supplied 69% of electricity to the National Electricity Market.

However the Industry is now under heavy attack from the increasing emphasis on Climate Change.



Peter James After graduating in Chemistry at Syd.Uni, Peter spent 19 years at CSR in sugar, insulation and coal, including 8 years in London. From 1980, he was marketing manager for one of CSR’s Hunter Valley coal mines with numerous visits to Japan, Korea and Taiwan. Transferring back to London in 1983 he established an office for marketing CSR’s coking, thermal and anthracite coals to European utilities and steel producers. When CSR sold its coal mines in 1988, he moved with his family back to Sydney, where

he was invited by British Steel to facilitate the purchase of coking coal for Britain, Netherlands and India, growing to 8 Mtpy by 2017.

He retired in 2018, though occasionally gets called back for advice. Peter played a lot of cricket (including Capt. of Australian Universities and a member of the NSW state squad), but now enjoys golf, theatre and music, and being together with his family. In all he has travelled to almost 100 countries.

THE PRESENTATION...

Peter will review the current situation and prospects for Australian metallurgical and thermal coal - export and domestic - in the light of the current market, environmental and political factors.

Very topical! ...Where do you stand on this issue?