

# Herd on the Terrace



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## COAL SACKED

**BHP** yesterday put the **Minerals Council of Australia** on notice that it may be flying the coop unless the council changes its policies around energy and climate change.

The main sticking point seems to be coal, particularly the high-efficiency, low-emissions coal television ads the MCA is running on the east coast as well as submissions and public statements casting doubt on the scientific consensus around climate change.

BHP believes energy policy should be fuel and technology neutral, not artificially favouring one type of

technology over another. The mining giant is also questioning its membership of the **United States Chamber of Commerce** and the **World Coal Association** for similar “material differences” in energy and climate change stances.

BHP pays \$1.9 million to the MCA in annual subscription fees, representing about 17 per cent of the organisation’s subscriber base, so the Minerals Council would be loath to lose it as a member.

But if the MCA caves in, it runs the risk of losing its political clout with the Liberals and the Nationals, not to mention potentially alienating other members such as **Adani**, **Centennial Coal**, **New Hope**, **Peabody Energy** and **Whitehaven Coal**.

There’s been some suggestions that the MCA coal crew could leave en masse and set up their own association or join resource industry

employer group **AMMA**.

But we hear the **Association of Mining and Exploration Companies** is happy looking after the smaller end of town and won’t be rushing in to court either BHP or the coal brigade.



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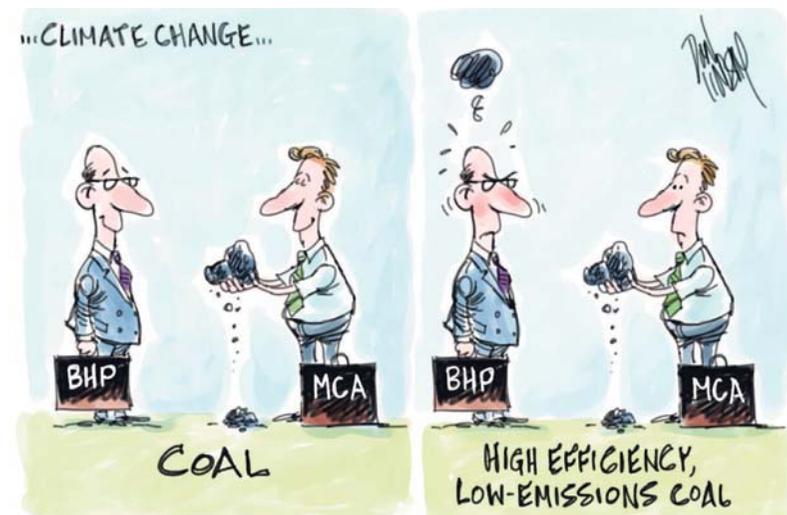


Illustration: Don Lindsay