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Australia, one of the most polluting countries



The energy policies adopted by the nationalist coalition that governs Australia would become this country in one of the most polluting. The promotion of mining extraction, the export of gas, coal and other fossil fuels are affecting the image of the country in environmental terms.

By José Díaz

Servindi, July 10th, 2019.- In the most recent ecological summits, **Australia** has shown itself to be one of the countries with the greatest retreat in terms of environmental policies. Its position against reducing the global goal of emissions to 1.5 ° Celsius a couple of years ago was only the first symptom of a series of political decisions that could make Australia one of the most polluting countries in the world.

Australia will become one of the most polluting countries in the world in 2030, according to a study by the [Australian Conservation Foundation \(ACF\)](#) [1], if this country continues with its policies to promote the export of gas, coal and other fossil fuels.

Australia currently contributes 5% of the total polluting emissions of the planet. However, if the decisions to carry out extractive projects such as the **Queensland** coal mine are maintained, in a decade Australia could contribute 17% of the global pollutant emissions.

"With planned expansions of coal and gas projects, Australia may be responsible for 17 percent of global emissions by 2030. The burning of coal and gas are the first cause of the climate crisis and Australia is the first exporter of both, with quantities that will increase dramatically in the coming years," warned **Gavan McFadzean** of ACF.



Emissions increase

Since 2013, Australia has registered a constant increase in emissions of polluting gases. Although this country of Oceania is one of the most vulnerable to climate change, the ruling coalition that governs this country is taking a series of decisions contrary to the principles of the [Paris Agreement](#) [2].

To this situation, we must add a series of events that have damaged the Australian biodiversity. For example, constant droughts and forest fires that have contributed to the deforestation of this country, as well as the bleaching of the **Great Barrier Reef**, which affects one of the most vulnerable ecosystems on the planet.

At the moment, China remains the most polluting country on the planet, although Australia has already entered the group of countries with the highest emissions. At the moment the oceanic country shares positions with Russia and India among the countries with the highest amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

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[1] <https://www.acf.org.au/>

[2] <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09r01.pdf>