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BRAVE GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES NEEDED FOR AUSTRALIA'S ENERGY EXPORT FUTURE

Australia has substantial potential to produce large volumes of renewable energy for exports. Doing so would help to reorient our export model to better meet the needs of a low-emission Asia-Pacific economy. There is a role for governments to help accelerate the transition to low-carbon exports.

This is the central message to be presented by Professor Paul Burke, Head of the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University in his keynote address to the Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) Conference, being held from 7-11 February. AARES is the pre-eminent society promoting research relevant to Australasia in agricultural, environmental, food, and resource economics and agribusiness. The conference theme is *Resilience in a Time of Uncertainty*.

"Australia is one of the world's largest commodity exporters. By developing new zero-carbon export flows, Australia could make a major contribution to reducing emissions in the Asia-Pacific," said Professor Burke, who is a researcher within the Zero-Carbon Energy for the Asia-Pacific ANU Grand Challenge project.

"The long-term prospects of Australia's coal and natural gas exports are not good. Fortunately, there are some low-emission alternatives."

"Regional Australia could particularly benefit from the development of new 'green' export industries powered by solar and wind. There is already private-sector interest," he said.

"There are opportunities for Australia to process iron ore domestically using zero-carbon energy, to produce green steel and aluminium, to export green ammonia and hydrogen, and also to export electricity. We calculate that the land requirements for the solar and wind farms to become a zero-carbon export powerhouse are feasible."

"There are pro-active initiatives that governments could take to spur new clean industry growth. For example, economy-wide corporate income tax reform so as to shift more of the corporate tax burden to super profits is one option worth considering."

"Greater use of carbon pricing in Australia and elsewhere in the region would help spur the growth of zero-carbon industries. Fortunately, countries such as China, Japan and Singapore have carbon prices in place and Indonesia is soon to join the club. Australia is still lagging," Professor Burke concluded.

In addition to distinguished [keynote speakers](#), there are over 120 contributed papers across a broad range of energy, agriculture, development and environment issues. The full contributed paper program is available [here](#).