

## **KEY POINTS ~ Global Energy Demand, Coal and Climate Change: Sustainable Development & the Paris Accord Rule Book<sup>1</sup>**

[Dr Ted Christie](#), 01 June 2018



### **Disclosure Statement**

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1. Climate change and energy are not competing priorities.
2. Energy is an intrinsic component for a sustainable future. But, achieving sustainable development raises **two significant challenges** for the entire coal value chain. Not only for the adoption of **clean coal technology** to reduce or limit emissions; but also, for **future coal production** and the need for new mining developments that acquire and use natural resources to extract coal.
3. In transitioning to a low-carbon future, one **challenge** is to ensure that the international trade in coal does not pose an unacceptable risk for achieving the 2° C long-term temperature target of the Paris Agreement?
4. For economies that are industrialising and urbanising at a rapid rate, a further **challenge** is whether the use of modern low emission coal technologies will provide an opportunity for these countries to improve energy access through affordable, reliable electricity – and not compromise achieving the Paris 2°C temperature target?
5. Both challenges require the integration of ecological, economic, social and cultural objectives – & not focus on 1 only e.g. *ecological to limit CO<sub>2</sub> emissions*.
6. Finding sustainable solutions requires the multiple and competing objectives of **sustainable development** – *ecological, economic, social and cultural* - to be assessed and balanced, **equitably**.
7. Two models are critiqued for achieving this goal: **SDG13-Climate Action** of the UNs 2030 Agenda and **Multi-Objective Analysis**.
8. Sustainable development is the elephant in the room. It is not yet a guide in the Paris Rule Book. This is a problem for coal as well as for all UNFCCC parties.

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<sup>1</sup> The **Key Points** were extracted from an [original article posted by the author on 01 June 2018](#), titled: "Global Energy Demand Conflicts ~ Public Participation and Sustainable Development - the Elephant in the Room? Part 2: Sustainable Development and the Paris Accord Rule Book.