
**MORE THAN 50 AUSTRALIAN COAL SHIPS REMAIN STRANDED OFF CHINA'S COAST
DESPITE POWER BLACKOUTS**

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Helen Davidson

More than 50 Australian coal ships are still stranded off China's coast, held up by a Chinese government import ban, despite the country facing coal shortages and one of its worst power blackouts in years.

China has rejected suggestions that its October ban on Australian coal has contributed to the coal shortage but the ban has been linked to higher domestic prices. Analysts have said that under the current circumstances any incoming coal would help.

Hundreds of millions of Chinese people have been ordered to severely ration electricity usage, including limiting factory operations, stopping elevators in high-rise apartments, and banning the use of heaters until temperatures drop below 3C.

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