



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Wednesday April 6, 2011**

BBC World News will premiere a series of locally-produced Australian specials focusing on mining, immigration and climate change in **HARDtalk on the road** from next Monday April 11.

**HARDtalk**, one of the network's flagship programmes, asks the difficult questions and gets behind the stories that make the news. Presented by Stephen Sackur, one of the BBC's most respected journalists and the AIB's International Television Personality of the Year 2010, the three part series blends reportage and classic hard-hitting **HARDtalk** interviewing.

The three specials include:

**The Mining Industry**

**HARDtalk** examines Australia's extraordinary resources boom. Thanks to China's insatiable demand for coal, iron ore and other commodities, the Australian economy has avoided many of the economic woes of the west and continues to grow. Chinese companies are developing vast new mines across Australia, working with a new generation of 'Aussie oligarchs' who control the mining rights and stand to make billions of dollars. **HARDtalk** quizzes mining magnate Clive Palmer - already one of Australia's wealthiest men - about the sustainability of this boom, and Stephen Sackur goes on the road to meet Aboriginal leaders concerned that thousands of years of indigenous heritage is being lost as the big dig continues. What is the cost of Australia turning itself into China's quarry of choice?

**Immigration**

Australia is a country built by immigrants, so why does the issue of immigration divide and antagonise many 21st century Australians? **HARDtalk** examines the reality behind the fears of a new wave of boat people trying to enter the country by sea. Every year a few thousand unauthorised immigrants make it into Australia where they face prolonged detention. But is it right to lock up children as well as adults; and is the argument over the so-called boat people a symptom of a wider breakdown of Australia's long running consensus on 'multiculturalism'? **HARDtalk** goes on the road talking to refugees, asylum seekers, rightwing populists, and the immigration minister Chris Bowen. When it comes to immigration and race, how deep do Australia's divisions go?

**Climate & Environment**

Australia has been experiencing an extraordinary series of extreme weather events - including cyclones, floods, drought and fire. Are these weather-borne catastrophes becoming more frequent and more intense as a result of climate change? **HARDtalk** goes on the road, travelling from flood-ravaged Queensland to drought-ridden Western Australia to find answers. Is the world's highest per capita greenhouse gas emitter prepared to change its economy and way of life to meet the climate challenge? **HARDtalk** talks to Australia's leading environmental campaigner and newly-appointed climate commission chief Tim Flannery.

**HARDtalk on the road** premieres on BBC World News – FOXTEL and AUSTAR channel 649 Monday 11 to Wednesday 13 April 2011 at 1:30pm, 6:30pm and 6:30am.

**For more information, please contact:**

Linda Deubel  
Marketing and Brand Communications Manager  
BBC Worldwide Australia  
T: 02 974 4 4521 M: 0403 573 183 E: [linda.deubel@bbc.com](mailto:linda.deubel@bbc.com)