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(Wyo.)-Gov. Matt Mead Heads To Australian Coal Conference



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By BEN NEARY

Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead is heading to Australia next week to participate in a conference on advanced coal technology.

Mead intends to tour coal export facilities and meet with coal company officials in Australia.

Mead spokesman Renny MacKay says officials from the School of Energy Resources at the University of Wyoming will accompany the governor.

Mead wants to export Wyoming coal to Asian markets. The export idea has run into opposition from states in the Northwest that oppose the prospect of coal trains from Wyoming's Powder River Basin heading to ports on the Pacific Coast.

The state budget bill that Mead signed into law last week includes \$500,000 that could be spent over the next two years on litigation to get access to ports for coal exports.