

The BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance negotiated a [Q3 benchmark price](#) at \$145 per tonne **fob Australia** with Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp

That price is DOWN from both \$172 per tonne for the June quarter and \$165 per tonne for the March quarter.

MET COAL globally during 2013 MIGHT increase overall by about 3% **to 281 million tonnes**, and a further 7% growth in 2014 to 301 million tonnes IF CHINA RESUMES HEAVY IMPORTS

China alone may see its COKE imports increase by 16% to 61 million tonnes in 2013 --BUT THIS ASSUMES A RESTART OF NOW SLOWED STEEL PLANTS...

IF CHINA RESUMES RAPID GDP GROWTH IN 2014, then maybe the 2014, China imports may increase by a further 21% to total 73 million tonnes

SOME OF THIS IS PROBABLY WISHFUL THINKING

India may see a growth from 16 million tonnes during last year 2012 **to 22 million tonnes in 2013** and 23 million tonnes in 2014.

Imports into **Japan** are expected to increase marginally to **53 million tonnes** and 54 million tonnes in 2013 and 2014

South Korea is expected to see imports increase **to 33 million tonnes** during 2013.

Imports into the **European Union** MIGHT return to 2011 levels of around **47 million tonnes by 2014**

AUSTRALIA

On the exports front, Australia's EXPORT shipments of metallurgical coal are forecast to increase by 6% to 153 million tonnes in 2013, with another 10% growth to 168 million tonnes expected in 2014.