



8 December 2009

An Important Step Forward in the Demonstration of CCS

The Australian Coal Association today welcomed the Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) flagship projects announced by the Minister for Resources and Energy, Martin Ferguson. "This is an important step towards the demonstration of carbon capture and storage technology at commercial scale in Australia, said Ralph Hillman, Executive Director of the ACA.

CCS is the only technology available to significantly reduce emissions from fossil-fuel fired power stations and from industrial processes such as steel and cement making and LNG processing. With almost 94% of Australia's electricity sourced from fossil fuels such as coal and gas, CCS will make a major contribution to reducing Australia's emissions while continuing to support economic prosperity and employment.

Today's announcement demonstrates the strong commitment to CCS by the Rudd Government – a commitment shared by major economies throughout the world, including the US and China.

"Having contributed to the development of the ZeroGen and Wandoan Project proposals the ACA is pleased to see both shortlisted by the Government for prefeasibility funding," Mr Hillman said.

The Australian coal industry has long recognised the importance of CCS in responding to climate change and is investing \$1 billion to support the development and demonstration of this technology.

Through the COAL21 Fund, we have directly committed \$220 million to a number of demonstration projects which include Callide Oxyfuel in Central Queensland and the Delta post combustion capture project in NSW. The COAL21 fund has undertaken to provide \$300 million to the development of an IGCC plant in Queensland.

"Projects such as these and the ones announced by the government today will maintain Australia as a world leader in developing the technologies that will substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions," Mr Hillman said.

Mr Hillman also welcomed the release of the Carbon Storage Taskforce *National Carbon Mapping and Infrastructure Plan*, which demonstrates the future viability of CCS in Australia.

[More](#)

“The plan shows that Australia is blessed with an abundance of storage capacity that could store Australia’s current CO₂ production for more than 100 years. This capacity will allow us to remove all captured CO₂ from the atmosphere,” Mr Hillman said.

“The close working relationship and commitment shown by the coal industry and Federal and State Governments to CCS technology will ensure that Australia has commercial-scale CCS demonstration projects for the key technologies operating from 2015,” Mr Hillman concluded.

For further information please contact:

Ralph Hillman
Executive Director
0429-083-820

Media Enquiries
Christian Taubenschlag
0421-774-748

Biography: Ralph Hillman Executive Director

Mr Hillman was Ambassador for the Environment and chief negotiator for Australia on the Kyoto Protocol from 1998 to 2002. He was appointed as Executive Director of the Australian Coal Association in August 2007.

He was Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the DECC from 1995 to 1998. From 1994 to 1995 Mr Hillman was Chief Economist in the Department. He was formerly a senior career officer of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and has extensive experience in multilateral economic policy and diplomacy.