



25 March 2010

Australian Coal Association Welcomes CCS Project Announcement

The Australian Coal Association today welcomed the announcement by Minister for Resources and Energy, Martin Ferguson AM MP, and the New South Wales Minister for Mineral and Forest Resources, Ian Macdonald MLC, on the funding of \$28.3 million to develop the first major carbon capture and storage project (CCS) in New South Wales.

The coal industry is committed to action on climate change and the industry is contributing a billion dollars over 10 years through its COAL21 Fund for developing technology to cut carbon emissions from coal fired power stations by up to 90%.

The investment announced today is funded equally by the Australian Coal Association, the Australian Government and the New South Wales Government and is testament to the strong commitment being demonstrated to technology which has world wide application for the long term use of coal, while minimising the emissions of greenhouse gases.

The project which will be managed by Delta Electricity will see a black coal power station in NSW retrofitted with Post Combustion Capture technology and the carbon dioxide safely and permanently stored in a deep underground geological formation.

Ralph Hillman, Executive Director of the Australian Coal Association, welcomed the announcement.

“Australia generates around 80 per cent of its electricity from coal, and the coal industry directly and indirectly employs over 130,000 Australians and plays a significant role in our national economy. With so much at stake, the deployment of CCS is crucial to our industry’s future and New South Wales is now firmly in the development picture,” he said

Mr Hillman said that the Delta project complements a number of other CCS projects around Australia which make up the CCS Flagships program.

“The close working relationship and commitment shown by the coal industry and Federal and State governments to CCS technology will ensure that Australia has a number of commercial-scale CCS demonstration projects ready within the next ten years,” Mr Hillman said.

The Australian Coal Association member companies established the voluntary COAL21 Fund with the aim of establishing the technical and economic viability of low-emissions coal technology.

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