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CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE: A KEY TECHNOLOGY FOR AUSTRALIA'S CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

The Australian Coal Association (ACA) welcomed Prime Minister Julia Gillard's acknowledgement today of the key role that carbon capture and storage (CCS) will play in Australia's clean energy future.

Ralph Hillman, ACA Executive Director, said "the Prime Minister's announcement that future coal-fired power stations will be 'CCS Ready' highlights the urgent need to ensure CCS technology is available for deployment in Australia.

CCS is not just a coal technology and will also need to be applied to future gas-fired power stations and industrial process if Australia is to meet its 2050 emissions reductions targets. It is a key technology for our future.

The Government's \$2 billion CCS Flagship Program will provide support for the first 2-4 industrial-scale CCS projects. The Australian black coal industry has also stepped up with direct investment of \$1 billion through its COAL21 Fund.

"This is a significant investment, but further support will be required to ensure new base-load power stations can move from being "CCS Ready" to actually capturing and storing CO₂. An immediate priority is to implement the recommendation of the National Carbon Storage Taskforce for a \$254m pre-competitive CO₂ Storage exploration program" Mr Hillman said.

In her speech at the University of Queensland today, Prime Minister Gillard also outlined her approach to rewarding early action by industry to reduce emissions. Mr Hillman noted that these 'incentives' would presumably accrue to industry under some future emissions trading scheme.

"Fugitive emissions from coal mining were unfairly excluded from the arrangements in the CPRS aimed at preserving the competitiveness of Australia's trade exposed industries despite meeting the Government's criteria for being emissions-intensive and trade exposed.

Continued exclusion from these arrangements under any future emissions trading scheme would have a major impact on the international competitiveness of the coal industry - Australia's largest export industry - and ultimately would cost jobs".

[More](#)

Mr Hillman welcomed the Prime Minister's commitment to genuine consultation on the development of a national climate change policy framework.

For further information please contact:

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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 OECD 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.