



Media Release

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Greenpeace out of step

Greenpeace's labeling of carbon capture and storage technology as "a scam" is incorrect and does nothing to contribute to the massive global effort to combat climate change, the Executive Director of the Australian Coal Association, Mr Ralph Hillman, said today.

Mr Hillman said that groups who claim that CCS technologies cannot play a role in cutting emissions in a timely fashion need to be aware that demonstrations of these technologies will occur in Australia in the period between now and 2015.

- Post Combustion pilot plants (Loy Yang, Hazelwood, Munmorah) for carbon capture will be operational this year with a large scale plant with storage operational by 2015;
- The Otway pilot CO₂ storage project in Victoria is operational now;
- Oxyfuel capture with storage at Callide-A Power Station in Queensland will be operational in 2010; and
- An IGCC Stage 1 plant (ZeroGen in Queensland) with pilot storage will be operational by 2012 with the Stage 2 commercial scale plant with full storage operational by 2017.

Mr Hillman added that many similar and complementary projects were underway around the world.

"Governments, industry and the research community all acknowledge that tackling the problems of climate change requires a range of solutions including energy efficiency, measures to address demand, increased use of renewables and low emissions for coal and gas," Mr Hillman said.

"The International Energy Agency expects global demand for energy will grow by over 50 per cent by 2030 and demand for electricity will double, with much of that demand coming from China and India.

"The IEA also expects global demand for coal to increase by 73% in that time scale, making it an imperative that low emission fossil fuel technology develops to commercial scale if Australia and the world are to meet lower emissions targets.

"Governments, industry and the scientific community around the world are pouring billions of dollars into CCS research, pilot and demonstration plants in the knowledge that the technology is viable and has already been working for some time in the oil and gas industries.

"These efforts have the support of people like Sir Nicholas Stern, Professor Ross Garnaut and the hundreds of respected scientists who contributed to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change special report which detailed the massive potential of CCS to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Mr Hillman said.

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The ACA Executive Director also rejected Greenpeace's call for a withdrawal of government support for CCS technology.

“Economists like Professor Garnaut agree that the market alone will not provide sufficient investment in first of kind technologies whether it be for low emission coal or renewables like solar and geo thermal,” he said.

Mr Hillman said the industry had long recognised that Australia's greatest energy resource – coal – must minimise emissions from its use in power generation during the transition to more sustainable energy systems over the next 10 to 15 years.

“That is why the industry established the billion dollar-plus COAL21 Fund in 2006 to drive the development of technology to massively reduce CO2 emissions from coal based electricity generation over the next decade,” he said.

Mr Hillman pointed out that just last month the ACA, the Climate Institute, the WWF and CFMEU mining union had joined forces to propose to government a National Carbon Capture and Storage Task force which would help coordinate and fast track commercialisation of CCS technology and the implementation of nationally consistent federal and state legal framework governing carbon storage.

“All of these organisations believe that while there is no single solution to the problems of climate change, carbon capture and storage will necessarily play a role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining global energy security,” Mr Hillman said.

“This is an important debate and a complex process that the world is undertaking to combat the challenges of climate debate and it deserves serious engagement,” Mr Hillman concluded.

A new background paper refuting Greenpeace's CCS report can be found at this link.

www.australiancoal.com.au/Pubs/ACA_briefing_on_CCS_050508.pdf

Further information:

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