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ACA Welcomes Global CCS Institute

Strong government, industry and research support for the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute illustrates the growing global importance of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies in tackling climate change, the Executive Director of the ACA, Mr Ralph Hillman said today.

Speaking after the formal launch of the GCCSI by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in Canberra today, Mr Hillman congratulated the Australian Government for the leadership it has shown in bringing together representatives from 24 countries, major energy companies and bodies like the International Energy Agency to help accelerate the deployment of carbon capture and storage technologies.

“The Australian Coal Industry has been at the forefront of driving development and demonstration of CCS in Australia through the billion dollar COAL21 fund and through its engagement with Federal and State Governments.

“We endorse the view of the Prime Minister that CCS technology will help shape an international solution to Climate Change,” he said.

“The GCCSI will play an important role in facilitating the deployment of 20 commercial-scale CCS projects, globally by 2020.

Together with the National Low Emissions Coal Council Australia now has in place the institutions to achieve a strategic approach to implementing CCS.

Australia would be one of the first countries to build a commercial scale power plant demonstrating carbon capture and storage.”

The International Energy Agency had found that CCS would reduce cost of meeting global emissions reduction targets by up to 70%.

Mr Hillman also welcomed Mr Rudd’s commitment at this morning’s launch to further funding for at-scale CCS projects in Australia.

“The ACA acknowledges that first-mover costs for the deployment of these technologies are going to be high, however – as with all complex technologies – these costs will fall when there is widespread commercial use in the power sector.

The ACA became a Foundation Member of GCCSI in December 2008.

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