

**Media Release
1 April 2008**

FOOLISH STUNTS AND HOT AIR DON'T FIX CLIMATE CHANGE

Plans by local activists to stage April Fools Day media stunts targeting the coal industry make no contribution to the serious challenge of solving climate change.

Speaking on the eve of the historic launch of the Otway Basin project – the largest greenhouse gas storage trial in Australia and the southern hemisphere - NSW Minerals Council CEO Dr Nikki Williams, said real achievements in dealing with the serious impacts of climate change are coming from Australia's research community.

Dr Williams said a number of major Carbon Capture and Storage projects being supported by governments and the coal and energy industries around Australia (including the Otway Basin, Hazelwood and Loy Yang in Victoria; Callide A and ZeroGen in Queensland; the \$150 million Post Combustion Carbon Capture and Storage Project in NSW; and the DF3 Kwinana Project in Western Australia) demonstrate that Australia is an emerging world leader in the low emission technology industry.

"In all, there are 13 different low emission technology projects going on around Australia - out of a total of some 45 worldwide. Three of these are on a large commercial scale. Low emission coal technologies are scientific fact not science fiction," said Dr Williams.

"The so called Fossil Fools Day stunts planned for April 1st will create a lot of greenhouse gas emissions but will contribute absolutely nothing to the most serious issue of our generation. We are in a race to put in place a full suite of solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and that's where the focus needs to lie."

Dr Williams said the Australian coal industry has acknowledged for over a decade that burning fossil fuels contributes to global warming and that we need to reduce emissions from burning coal." More than that, the industry has put its money where its mouth is", she said.

"The Australian coal industry is working closely with researchers and governments - both in Australia and overseas - investing heavily to fast track deployment of these crucial technologies," she said.

"And we shouldn't forget that 75 per cent of the world's emissions come from sources other than coal, so we need the full gamut of responses, including renewable energy sources, fuel efficient transport, buildings and appliances, household energy conservation, improved agricultural practices, reforestation and supportive government policies working together. Finding solutions to climate change is not a competition. The NSW coal industry is calling for an end to all this tiresome hot air."

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