

## NEW SOUTH WALES MINERALS COUNCIL LTD

MININGENUITY™

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### Media Release

2 April 2008

#### MINING INDUSTRY AND CFMEU CALL FOR FAST TRACK ON LOW EMISSION TECHNOLOGIES

A joint mining industry and union call has been made to the Federal and State Governments to accelerate the deployment of low emission technologies for power generation.

The call, made by the leaders of the NSW Minerals Council and the CFMEU, coincides with today's historic launch of the Otway Basin Project which involves the first large scale storage of carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in Australia and the southern hemisphere.

Speaking at the Sydney launch of the Otway project, CEO of the NSW Minerals Council, Dr Nikki Williams said that Otway was one of several major projects in Australia which are paving the way towards a low emissions energy future.

"Australia is poised to become a major world player in the design and commercialisation of low emission technologies, but the clock is ticking," warned Dr Williams.

"We now need to ensure that Australia's R&D program is well co-ordinated, that legislative challenges are addressed at a national level and that international collaboration and negotiations are brokered to ensure rapid world-wide deployment of these vital technologies."

Tony Maher, National President of the CFMEU said that the progress made so far in Australia is very encouraging.

"I pay tribute to the Australian research community and the mining industry for its steady progress in developing new low emission technologies."

"But there is a greater urgency than ever before and we have a tough timetable to meet. The individual initiatives in various States need to be brought together if we are to meet emissions targets," he said.

"Government and industry are committing billions of dollars, but now we urgently need even greater Government leadership to make the most of the many developments which have taken place in the past year," he said.

The Australian coal industry has acknowledged for well over a decade that burning fossil fuels contributes to global warming and that we need to reduce emissions from coal and gas.

Dr Williams said that despite the hostile myths being perpetrated about low emission technologies, Governments, coal producers, the research community and electricity generators had made major progress in the development of these technologies over the past few years.

"Some activists would have you believe that climate change can be rolled back by dismantling the coal industry and that low emission technologies are either a million miles away or are some kind of PR fantasy," she said.

"Otway, and other technologies being demonstrated in Australia, are proof that low emission technologies are scientific fact not science fiction. They are also a vital component of the global response to climate change.

"A similar project at Sleipner in Norway has been injecting 1 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in the deep subsurface every year for over 12 years," she said. "This is not new technology – what is new is testing and monitoring it in Australian conditions.



“Low emission technologies will not only help drive deep cuts in CO2 emissions, they will create a significant new export industry,” said Dr Williams.

There are currently at least 13 projects at various stages of development in Australia including:

- Otway and other storage trials including projects at Moomba in South Australia and Gorgon in Western Australia
- The ZeroGen project in Central Queensland, which will be the world’s first combined coal gasification plus Carbon Capture and Storage plant
- The Callide Oxyfuel project in Queensland - a demonstration power plant which will burn coal in a mixture of oxygen and recirculated gases, producing CO2 in high concentrations suitable for easy and economic capture
- A combined \$150 million Post-Combustion Capture and Storage project in NSW which offers the potential to virtually eliminate emissions from power stations; this includes a \$5 million Post-Combustion Carbon Capture project at Murrumbidgee Power Station on the NSW Central Coast.
- Projects at Hazelwood and Loy Yang in Victoria, which involve dewatering, drying and gasification of brown coal
- For more information on Australian projects go to:
- [http://www.co2crc.com.au/dls/gen/CCS\\_activities\\_2008.pdf](http://www.co2crc.com.au/dls/gen/CCS_activities_2008.pdf)

**WHAT:** Launch of Australia’s first large scale demonstration of CO2 storage

**WHO:** Leading CO2 storage expert, **Professor John Kaldi**, Chief Scientist, CO2CRC  
**Dr Nikki Williams**, Chief Executive, NSW Minerals Council  
**Mr Tony Maher**, General President CFMEU, Mining and Energy Division

**WHEN:** 11.30a.m on Wednesday 2nd April 2008

**WHERE:** State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street Sydney

**To arrange interviews please contact Marion Downey, NSW Minerals Council  
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