



**Media Release**

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**JOINT STATEMENT ACA and NSWMC**

**CLEAN COAL FUND WILL FAST TRACK LOW EMISSION TECHNOLOGY**

The new Clean Coal Fund announced by the NSW Government today will accelerate the technology advances needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, according to coal industry leaders.

The Australian Coal Association (ACA) and the NSW Minerals Council (NSWMC) today jointly welcomed the Government's initiative, commenting that it will add to funds already being invested by the industry to reduce CO2 emissions from coal-fired power generation.

ACA Executive Director, Ralph Hillman, said the \$100 million earmarked by the Government to demonstrate clean coal technologies adds to \$400 million committed by the industry from its COAL21 Fund to develop projects that demonstrate these emerging technologies in NSW.

"The COAL21 Fund is a \$1 billion world first initiative established by the coal industry through a voluntary levy to develop carbon capture and storage technologies that will substantially reduce emissions from coal-fired power stations," said Mr Hillman.

"We welcome the opportunity of working on the Government's Clean Coal Council to develop these vital technologies," he said.

NSWMC External Affairs Director, Lancia Jordana, said coal producers are strongly committed to working with electricity generators, the Government and the research community to find solutions to the serious problem of climate change.

"Our industry recognised the risks associated with climate change a long time ago and has been working to fast track technological solutions to reduce emissions from the burning of coal. The majority of international experts recognise that clean coal technologies are a crucial part of the global solution to climate change, alongside the development of renewables," Ms Jordana said.

**ENDS**

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For information on COAL21 and low emissions technologies, visit [www.coal21.com.au](http://www.coal21.com.au) or [www.australiancoal.com.au](http://www.australiancoal.com.au) or [www.nswmin.com.au](http://www.nswmin.com.au)

**Additional Background:**

The black coal industry is the state's largest export earner, underpinning the reliability, affordability and security of the state's power supply. It supports 67,000 jobs (more than 13,000 directly and more than 54,000 indirectly) and sustains entire communities. The coal industry has been a major driver of the COAL21 national action agenda established in 2004 with federal and state governments, the power and coal industries, private and public sector research organisations, the CFMEU and New Zealand industry.

In addition to the enormous employment and export opportunities it generates, the coal industry makes a critical contribution to the quality of life enjoyed by all Australians through the payment of royalties and taxes. Nationally, this totals more than \$1.5 billion annually, with the NSW industry contributing \$447 million in royalties alone in 2005-06.

The coal industry's expanded COAL21 Fund supports the implementation of the COAL21 National Action Plan developed in collaboration with federal and state governments, the power generation and coal industries (including New Zealand), private and public sector research organisations, and the industry union – the CFMEU.

The industry's world-leading COAL21 Fund is expected to raise around a billion dollars nationally over the next decade and is in addition to current coal industry support of national and international projects to address greenhouse gas issues through R&D and demonstration of low emissions technologies. This includes: funding of Australian research through the Australian Coal Association Research Program (ACARP); industry funding support to a number of research organisations, including those dealing with carbon capture and storage and clean coal technologies e.g. Co-operative Research Centres; involvement in the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate; the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum and bilateral forums with China and India, including the Australia China Joint Coordination Group on clean coal technologies; and, Australian coal industry's contribution to the FutureGen program (a global industry fund contributing \$250 million).

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