

**MEDIA RELEASE
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INDUSTRY APPLAUDS RETENTION OF LOW EMISSION COAL TECHNOLOGY FUNDING

The NSW Government's mini-budget announcement to retain its \$100 million commitment to Clean Coal Fund has been applauded as a mark of its determination to make a meaningful contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

NSW Minerals Council CEO, Dr Nikki Williams, said the Government's decision, in the face of major economic challenges, was proof that it was serious about helping to tackle one of the most serious global problems of our times.

"The Clean Coal Fund will provide vital research funding for the demonstration and commercialisation of a new generation of technologies that our most eminent scientists say will enable coal fired power generation with zero or near zero emissions in the next 10 years," said Dr Williams.

"One of the exciting new technologies being developed at Munmorah Power Station on the NSW Central Coast is a post combustion capture trial that will begin capturing CO₂ by early 2009."

Dr Williams said that both the State and Federal Governments recognised the opportunity and imperative for Australia to be a world leader in low emission coal technologies.

"Coal-fired power provides for more than 90% of the total energy of NSW and is a major contributor to our economy, as underlined by today's mini-budget. It is critical that we invest in its long-term future," she said.

"We applaud the Rees Government for its vision in maintaining its commitment to the Clean Coal Fund. This adds to other State and Federal Government funding and the industry's own world-first, voluntary Coal21 Fund, which provides \$1 billion for the accelerated demonstration and deployment of low emission coal technologies."

**To arrange interviews contact Lancia Jordana Tel: (02) 9274 1402 Mobile: 0412 283 252
Email: ljordana@nswmin.com.au**

