

MEDIA RELEASE

30 April 2007

Crisis Summit Trivialises Climate Change Issue

The solution to climate change requires more than half-day 'Crisis Summits' and media stunts, according to the NSW Minerals Council.

NSW Minerals Council Chief Executive, Dr Nikki Williams, described today's summit and campaign announcement by Greens MP Lee Rhiannon as another example of the "political symbolism" which clutters debate on the important issue of climate change.

"Concern over climate change is not the exclusive domain of the NSW Greens or environmental lobby groups," she said.

"The mining industry has long recognised the need to reduce emissions from the burning of coal and has been pro-active in the collective effort to develop real solutions."

"There is widespread acceptance that fossil fuels will continue to provide for the vast majority of global energy needs well into the future. Likewise, there is widespread acceptance that clean coal technology will play a critical role in addressing climate change."

"The industry is committed to the demonstration of technologies which will allow the international community to satisfy its growing energy demands, whilst reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

Dr Williams said she believed the wider community recognised the complexity of climate change and wanted leadership on the issue.

"Climate change solutions require leadership and collaboration between industry, Governments and the research community."

"Instead, the NSW Greens have taken the lead in the race toward irrelevance, reverting to a familiar rallying cry to shut down an industry which employs tens of thousands, and commits many hundreds of millions towards genuine solutions."

The \$300 million COAL21 Fund, announced in March 2006, was raised through a voluntary levy on Australia's coal producers for the demonstration and deployment of low emission coal technologies. This was done in the absence of a price signal or specific government policy.

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