



## *Public Hearing in Canberra*

# Applying the science of geosequestration

Power generation from stationary facilities, such as coal-fired power stations, is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions in Australia and therefore methods to capture and store CO<sub>2</sub> from these sources could have a significant impact on emissions. However, there are major challenges to be addressed including cost and environmental issues.

Representatives from the **Australian Coal Association** will attend a public hearing into the science and application of geosequestration by the House of Representatives Science and Innovation Committee in Canberra on Monday 27 November. The ACA advocate the implementation of carbon capture and storage technology (geosequestration) as a major strategy to help address the global problem of greenhouse gas emissions. Coal provides over 56 per cent of Australia's electricity generation and will continue to be the major supplier to this industry for many years to come. Capturing and storing the CO<sub>2</sub> from coal fired power stations will therefore be critical to maintaining this reliance on coal.

The ACA has launched the COAL21 partnership to bring together all stakeholders to accelerate the introduction of clean coal technologies. This initiative aims to raise over \$300 million to help fund the necessary research and development underpinning greenhouse gas abatement. However, the ACA has concerns about the imposition of any "carbon taxes" that may send the wrong signals to power-generating sector that is trying to develop long term solutions to greenhouse gas emissions. The ACA will discuss their approach to the committee at the hearing including the need to put in place a nationally consistent legal and regulatory framework for CCS activities both onshore and offshore.

The Minister for Education, Science and Training, Julie Bishop, has requested that the Committee inquire into and report on the science and application of geosequestration technology in Australia, with particular reference to:

- The science underpinning geosequestration technology;
- The potential environmental and economic benefits and risks of such technology;
- The skill base in Australia to advance the science of geosequestration technology;
- Regulatory and approval issues governing geosequestration technology and trials; and
- How to best position Australian industry to capture possible market applications.

**Venue:** Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House, Canberra

**Date:** Monday 27 November 2006

**4:35 pm** **Australian Coal Association** (Submission No 40)

**6:00 pm** Hearings close

The public hearing will be broadcast internally (audio only) on HMS radio frequency 98.7. Further details, including the terms of reference, membership of the Committee and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee's website at

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/scin/geosequestration/index.htm> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4150 or emailing [scin.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:scin.reps@aph.gov.au)

**For media comment:** contact the Committee Chair Mr Petro Georgiou at Parliament House on (02) 6277 4419 or at his electorate office (03) 9882 3677.

**For information:** contact the Committee Secretary on (02) 6277 4150