



## **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 **CRC for Greenhouse Gas Technologies (CO2CRC)** 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 12 February. The CO2CRC is a world leader in geosequestration research. The CO2CRC played a key role in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report into Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (CCS). CO2CRC believes the successful commercialisation of CCS technology will play a key role in helping to limit the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> released into the atmosphere. The introduction of CCS will enable major cuts in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions while at the same time enable the continued use of fossil fuels. According to the CO2CRC, no system is without risk but it believes that the research to date suggests that global storage of CO<sub>2</sub> should be able to achieve a 1% or less leakage rate for stored CO<sub>2</sub> over 1000 years. At present the major impediment to the uptake of CCS is its cost and CO2CRC believes that these costs can be substantially reduced over time by undertaking a range of full-scale demonstration projects utilising the various technologies available to capture CO<sub>2</sub> at selected sources and then sequester this CO<sub>2</sub> in sites that have been identified as suitable for long term storage.

If climate change is to be successfully tackled globally and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are to be stabilised at around 550 ppm by 2100, then according to the CO2CRC, a number of strategies will need to be adopted by governments. The CO2CRC will discuss its proposals with the committee at the hearing as well as issues relating to the uptake of the CCS technology, both here in Australia and overseas.

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 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra

**Date:** Monday 12 February 2007

**4:45 pm** **CRC for Greenhouse Gas Technologies** (Submission No 36)

**6:15 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