
A LOW CARBON FUTURE WITH CCS ANOTHER STEP CLOSER FOR AUSTRALIA

The release today of a University of Queensland study provides greater certainty for the commercialisation of carbon capture use and permanent storage (CCUS) technology in Australia and the opportunity to significantly reduce emissions from heavy industry.

COAL21 CEO Mark McCallum said the University of Queensland study shows that deep emission cuts – in the order of at least 13 million tonnes annually for a minimum of 30 years - could be achieved by establishing a large-scale carbon 'hub' using CCUS technology.

“Initially, that would be the equivalent of removing 2.8 million cars from our roads every year, but that’s based on very conservative modelling,” said Mr McCallum.

“This three-year study proves that CCUS is a very real opportunity for regional Queensland to reduce emissions from existing modern power stations as well as many other industries.

“The study indicates far greater emissions reductions are possible with CCUS technology because the Surat Basin has a large storage capacity with the potential for sustained, high-rate injection over many years.

“That means CO₂ from many sources from a range of industries and power stations in Queensland could also be injected and permanently stored.”

Mr McCallum said that creating a carbon 'hub' would do more than make a significant contribution to emission reduction efforts.

“The beauty of a Queensland carbon hub is that industries of the future could be enabled, such as producing hydrogen from coal or natural gas or renewables,” he said.

“That means energy security, jobs and a transition to cleaner energy and a low carbon economy.

“CCUS can make the fastest, single most significant contribution to emission reduction globally and both the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the International Energy Agency advise that CCUS is essential for achieving climate change targets and the only technology able to deeply decarbonise large industrial sectors.

“Australia was the first country in the world to prove carbon capture technology on coal-fired power stations at Callide in Queensland, and today we have research which further improves our understanding of Queensland’s permanent storage capacity.

“Now we have a full low emissions technology solution that can safely deliver reliable, secure, affordable and flexible energy much more sustainably, and in a way that also contributes to developing other low or zero emissions technologies.”

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