

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES IN AUSTRALIA

Research

Roadmap of CCS Communication Activities

Researchers at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) recently completed a report titled "An integrated roadmap of carbon dioxide capture and storage communication activities in Australia and beyond". The work was funded through the Australian Coal Association Research Program (ACARP) and presents a summary of the major communication activities carried out in relation to CCS since 1992 to date. Access the report at www.australiancoal.com.au

Large Group Engagement Process

Following the success of the small group facilitated workshop the process was scaled up to identify if similar results could be achieved when engaging a large group of individuals at once. The work was conducted by CSIRO and the Centre for Low Emission Technology (CLET) in February 2008, with an aim of engaging communities in discussion around climate change and low emission energy technologies, including CCS. To date two workshops have been held. One comprised representatives of the 18 - 25 age group with approximately 40 participants and the second comprised a representative sample of South East Queensland's population with 60 participants. The results of this work is currently being analysed and it is envisaged the work will be trialled in other states of Australia to enable comparisons of attitudes about climate change and CCS between different geographical regions within Australia.

Launch of Otway Basin demonstration project

The Cooperative Research Centre for Greenhouse Gas Technologies (CO2CRC) will launch Australia's first demonstration project of the injection and storage of carbon dioxide in the deep subsurface on Wednesday 2nd April, at the project site in Nirranda South, Victoria Australia. Currently the CO2CRC Otway project is in its final stages of construction.

The Federal Minister for Resources and Energy, Mr Martin Ferguson, and the Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources, Mr Peter Batchelor, will officially launch the project. Site tours will be conducted for the Ministers and media following the launch. Key landholders, industry representatives, government officials and researchers from Australia, the US and Canada will attend. A Sydney project launch, co-hosted by the NSW Minerals Council, is being held on the same day to ensure maximum national and Sydney media coverage. Other complementary events are being held before and after the launch. They include the APP meeting in Melbourne, a community open day, and a site tour by APP attendees

As part of the community engagement activities the project has recently appointed a community liaison officer who has lived in the area all her life, is a mother of four and was previously a math's and science teacher in the nearby town of Warrnambool.

The CO2CRC has also continued their ongoing CCS outreach activities at the national and international level including electronic newsletters, factsheets, website and media releases. More details of these can be found at www.CO2CRC.com.au

Government

National Greenhouse Gas Storage Legislation

The announcement of the Federal election with the consequent introduction of caretaker conventions for both Ministers and government officials, and the consequent election of a new government has resulted in unavoidable delays to implementation process for the greenhouse gas (GHG) injection and storage legislative regime within Commonwealth offshore waters, through proposed amendments to the Offshore Petroleum Act 2006.

However the development of the draft has now been substantively completed and a package of explanatory material has been developed. The Government's approval for the proposed approach and the process for consultation is currently being sought and remains a priority of the new government.

A Regulatory Framework for the Long-Term Underground Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide in Victoria - Discussion Paper

On January 14, 2008, the Victorian government released for public consultation a discussion paper, "A Regulatory Framework for the Long-Term Underground Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide in Victoria". The discussion paper describes current arrangements for the regulation of CCS in other jurisdictions and presents options for a Victorian regulatory framework. Three community consultation forums on the discussion paper were held in Colac, Melbourne and Morwell from the 29th January to 8th February, 2008. The closing date for submissions was the 29th February, 2008 and the submissions are currently being analysed and will soon be posted to the website. A copy of the presentation given at the forums is attached.

<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/DPI/dpinenergy.nsf/childdocs/-3F827E74C37E0836CA25729D00101EB0-866B51F390263BA1CA2572B2001634F9-E3451377DF5BCEEDCA2573D0001A7241?open>

Carbon Dioxide Geosquestration Tenure Administration

In June 2007, Queensland's Department of Mines and Energy released a discussion paper on potential tenure administration arrangements for CCS. Several stakeholder workshops have been conducted since and consultation is continuing with industry, agriculture and conservation groups; various state, national and international government departments and some law firms. <http://www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/legislation.cfm>

Industry

Rio Tinto

Stepping Up: Accelerating the Deployment of Low Emission Technology in Australia

Rio Tinto and 9 other companies including Anglo Coal, BP Australia, Deloitte, Mirvac, Santos, Swiss Re, VicSuper and Westpac formed the Australian Business & Climate Group and published a report entitled "Stepping up: Accelerating the Deployment of Low Emission Technology in Australia". The report describes the barriers to deployment of low emission technology, explains why emissions trading alone will not deploy these technologies at the rate and scale necessary to stabilise atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations, and calls for the development of a National Low Emission Technology Strategy to accelerate its deployment. The report was distributed to government officials and ministers, industry organisations, research organisations and other stakeholders with a policy interest in CCS to stimulate discussion around the topic.

Geologic Storage of Carbon Dioxide: Staying Safely Underground

Rio Tinto, Chevron, the IEA GHG and CO2CRC edited and sponsored the publication of the booklet called "Geologic Storage of Carbon Dioxide: Staying Safely Underground". The booklet is a non-technical summary of geosequestration for the layperson. The report is currently being printed and will be distributed in Australia in March. Printed copies of the geologic storage booklet have already been distributed to some government officials and will be circulated more widely when hard copies become available. The booklet can be downloaded on the following link.

<http://www.ieagreen.org.uk/glossies/geostoragesfty.pdf>

BP

Fundamentals of Carbon Capture and Storage Technology

BP has produced a booklet on the fundamentals of carbon capture and storage that can be used as a basic text for public outreach.

Moomba Carbon Storage

This project continues to engage with a wide cross section of government to pursue partnership opportunities and industry for source to sink alliances. They have also positively engaged with WWF who are developing a position paper on early implementation of CCS in Australia

Fairview Power Project

To date there has been no new public outreach activity around this project while it continues to focus on commercial arrangements within the partnership and the LETDF funding deed.

Zerogen

ZeroGen places a strong emphasis on stakeholder engagement. It engages with a wide cross section of stakeholders across the discrete project area as well as governments and industry in Australia and around the world.

ZeroGen is employing a number of methods to inform and educate stakeholders about the project. Importantly, these methods enable stakeholders to participate in the development of the project and provide a valuable feedback loop on issues of concern back to ZeroGen.

These methods include the establishment of community liaison groups, workshops to provide an update on the environmental impact statement (EIS) process, attendance at local, national and international workshops and conferences, media articles and digital media through the ZeroGen website

Queensland Resources Council (QRC)

Is a not-for-profit peak industry association representing companies and individuals engaged in Queensland's minerals and energy sector. The QRC has conducted numerous speeches and presentation on low emissions coal in a range of forums. The QRC also runs an education program which reached an estimated 55,000 students in Queensland schools in 2007. Face to face teaching programs are now being replaced by online teaching resources which can be found at <http://www.oresomeresources.com/>

Coal 21

Australian Coal Association has recently conducted preliminary research into public knowledge and attitudes around coal and clean coal technologies. This research is currently being analysed to inform a wider communication initiative for the Australian Coal Association.