



MEDIA RELEASE

MARTIN FERGUSON

Minister for Resources and Energy
Minister for Tourism

Sharon Grierson

Member for Newcastle

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CCS LEGISLATION OPEN FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Hon Martin Ferguson AM MP, Minister for Resources and Energy and Sharon Grierson MP, Member for Newcastle, have announced the Australian Government has released draft legislation for consultation which will establish the world's first framework for carbon dioxide capture and geological storage (CCS).

Minister Ferguson said: "With 83 per cent of Australia's electricity generated from coal, no serious response to climate change can ignore the need to clean up coal and the Government's establishment of a CCS framework represents a major step towards making clean coal a reality.

"CCS is essential for the long-term sustainability of coal-fired power generation and the potential of new industries such as coal-to-liquids, which could improve Australia's liquid transport fuel security," Minister Ferguson said.

"The Hunter's coal industry has a big role to play in the economic future of our region," Sharon Grierson said.

"The success of CCS technology will ensure this future is a sustainable one."

"By creating an environment in which industry can confidently invest in CCS projects, we're encouraging the commercialisation of technologies that move us closer to our aim of a sustainable energy future for our region and our nation."

CCS involves capturing greenhouse gas emissions, predominantly from coal-fired power stations, before they are released into the atmosphere. The gas is then injected and stored deep under the ground in geological formations similar to those which have stored oil and gas for millions of years.

The CCS legislation establishes access and property rights for the injection and storage of greenhouse gases into a stable subsurface geological reservoir in Commonwealth waters (more than three nautical miles offshore).

The legislation provides for appropriate consultation and multiple use rights with other marine users, including the fishing and petroleum industries, and ensures pre-existing property and use rights are properly preserved.

Australia has the capacity to inject and store a significant amount of its carbon emissions in these reservoirs and Geoscience Australia is assessing numerous sites for geological storage.