

New South Wales Atlas for CCS launched

The state-wide opportunities for the application of carbon capture and geological storage (CCS) in New South Wales have been outlined in a new study by the Cooperative Research Centre for Greenhouse Gas Technologies (CO2CRC).

“The *CCS Atlas of New South Wales Australia* draws together the layers of information required for NSW carbon capture and storage projects for the first time,” said CO2CRC Chief Executive Dr Peter Cook, launching the *Atlas* at the NSW Low Emissions Coal Technologies Summit in Sydney today.

“The focus of the *Atlas* is the geology, but it also looks at infrastructure and accessibility, related resource issues and social and environmental sensitivities.”

“The *Atlas* paints a broad picture – it identifies the gaps in our knowledge that must be filled by geological studies such as seismic surveys and deep drilling before commercial CCS projects can get underway,” says Dr Cook.

“In many ways it’s the beginning of the process, not the end. It identifies what needs to be done to establish the carbon dioxide storage potential of the state.”

By working through the complex geology of New South Wales and the many other considerations required for CCS projects, the *Atlas*, developed by Dr Alexandra Golab, provides a template for regional assessments that can be used by other States or countries that wish to consider CCS as part of their mitigation portfolio.

The project is part of CO2CRC’s comprehensive program of CCS research, including Australian and international assessments of carbon dioxide storage potential.

Australian CCS research is part of an international drive to make deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions by capturing and geologically storing carbon dioxide from major sources such as power stations.

CO2CRC is supported through the Australian Government’s CRC Program.

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CO2CRC collaborates with leading international and national CCS experts to conduct world-class research into carbon capture and storage. Organisations participating in CO2CRC research include CSIRO, Geoscience Australia, GNS (New Zealand), the Universities of Adelaide, Curtin, Melbourne, Monash, NSW, Queensland, and Western Australia, the Alberta Research Council of Canada and the US Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Industry and State core partners supporting CO2CRC are ANLEC R&D, Anglo American, BG Group, BHP Billiton, BP Australia, Brown Coal Innovation Australia, Chevron, Foundation for Research Science and Technology (NZ), INPEX, KIGAM, Mitsui, QER, QLD Department of Mines and Energy, Rio Tinto, Sasol, Schlumberger, Shell, Solid Energy, Stanwell, Total, the Victorian Department of Primary Industries, WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, and Xstrata.