

THE CO2CRC OTWAY PROJECT

RESEARCHING CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE AT NIRRANDA SOUTH

November 2011

THE LABORATORY UNDER A Paddock

You wouldn't know it if you drove past on the Great Ocean Road but an international team of scientists has just completed eleven weeks of globally significant research at Nirranda South.

Carbon capture and storage is one of a range of technologies being developed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power stations and other industry. It works by capturing carbon dioxide from waste gases and storing them permanently deep underground in porous rocks. Scientists expect that literally millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide per year can be safely stored underground in this way, making a real difference to climate change.



Storing CO₂ underground can make a real difference

Researchers from the Cooperative Research Centre for Greenhouse Gas Technologies, known as CO2CRC, have been running tests on this kind of deep carbon storage at the site since 2008. Surrounded by dairy farms, it's a bit like a laboratory under a paddock.

Over 65,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide-rich gas were stored in a depleted gas field in Stage 1 of the research.

Scientists are monitoring the air, soil, water and rocks deep underground and everything confirms that, as expected, the gas is not moving or leaking and is securely stored.

The Stage 2 experiments just completed tested the different ways carbon dioxide can be permanently trapped in the rock. With five experiments run over eleven weeks, the international effort has produced excellent results that scientists will analyse over the next eighteen months.

Making sure the carbon dioxide will not leak is a key aim of the research at the Otway Project. Stage 2 is helping scientists work out how much carbon dioxide can be stored in this way and ensure that it will be stored securely and safely for thousands of years.



The Otway Project is surrounded by dairy farms

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The next Otway Project community reference group meeting will be held at the site Visitor Centre on **Tuesday 6 December 2011 at 7.30pm**. Reference group meetings are held regularly to update landholders and the community on the progress of the project, discuss future plans and provide the opportunity to ask questions. All members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting.

Advertisements will be run in local papers including the Warrnambool Standard and the Cobden Times before the meeting. Contact Josie McInerney for more information at jmcinerney@co2crc.com.au or on 0458 462 063.



Dr Peter Cook during a talk at the 2011 Otway Project Open Day

KEEPING INFORMED

An important goal of the Otway Project is to keep the local community up to date on what's going on at the site, as well as demonstrating to all Australians how carbon capture and storage works. CO2CRC does this in a range of ways including public meetings, our website and newsletters like this one.

To find out whether we've been hitting the mark, CO2CRC recently commissioned focus groups and telephone interviews with people from the Nirranda and surrounding communities.

The results were interesting – we found that a majority of people think climate change is an important issue and that we should be taking action.

80 per cent of people agreed that the community should be kept informed about the Otway Project. It is encouraging for us that people want to hear more!

We also found that awareness of carbon capture and storage has risen a great deal since planning for the project first began in 2006, but many people would still like to know more about how it works. Unsurprisingly, safety and the environment are people's biggest concerns.

The research has given us some useful information on what has worked and what we could improve. If you were interviewed or took part in a focus group thank you very much!

If you would like to hear more we will be sharing further results from the research at the upcoming public meeting on Tuesday 6 December.



Keeping the local community up to date on the Otway Project

NEW CEO FOR CO2CRC

Dr Richard Aldous has joined CO2CRC as the new Chief Executive.

Richard has a PhD in geology and his background includes geosciences, chemical engineering, business development and planning.

Richard's previous role was Deputy Secretary Energy and Earth Resources of the Victorian Department of Primary Industries, with responsibility for energy, geological survey, energy technology innovation, investment attraction and the regulation of mining, oil and gas and pipeline development. Richard has previously been a Director of CO2CRC and has been involved with the Otway Project from the State Government point of view for many years.

Also new to CO2CRC is Dr Matthias Raab, who is heading up the storage research program. Matthias is a highly qualified project manager with extensive experience in geoscience, marine seismic and geological carbon dioxide storage. Part of Matthias' role is leading the Otway Project team so he has had to hit the ground running during the latest Stage 2 operations.

Both Richard and Matthias will be at the community reference group meeting on Tuesday 6 December and would be happy to discuss any aspect of the project.



*Dr Richard Aldous
CO2CRC Chief Executive*



Dr Matthias Raab