



Media Release

02 November 2007

Carbon Capture and Storage

The Australian Coal Association said today that recent comments decrying carbon capture and storage by Senate candidate, Dr Karl Kruszelnicki were inaccurate and ran counter to the evidence of thousands of scientists and engineers working on the technology globally and in Australia.

Executive Director, Ralph Hillman said the comments were also at odds with the reasoned support for the need for carbon capture and storage as part of the response to climate change e.g. from Al Gore, the International Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a report last week from 15 of the World's Academies of Sciences, the Pew Centre, the World Wildlife Fund, UK Friends of the Earth, Australia's Climate Institute, Australia's Chief Scientist, among many others.

Mr. Hillman said the inaccuracy of Dr. Kruszelnicki's comments could be judged by the extent of his error regarding Australia's carbon dioxide storage needs.

"The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) literature, in the most definitive report to date on carbon capture and storage, compiled by eminent scientists, provides formula for storage which would put Dr. Kruszelnicki's claim of a one cubic kilometre storage requirement per day in Australia to be in error by a factor of **several hundred**", Mr. Hillman said.

Mr. Hillman said the pre-eminent world scientific body on climate change and solutions, the IPCC is clear on the efficacy of carbon capture and storage and the valuable contribution it can make to greenhouse gas reductions globally. It is also clear on the safety of the technology, declaring a less than one per cent leakage risk over 1000 years. (Quotes below from the IPCC report on carbon capture and storage.)

"Available evidence suggests that, worldwide, it is likely that there is a technical potential of at least about 2,000 Gigatonnes of CO₂ of storage capacity in geological formations.

"In most scenario studies, the role of CCS in mitigation portfolios increases over the course of the century, and the inclusion of CCS in a mitigation portfolio is found to reduce the costs of stabilizing CO₂ concentrations by 30% or more.

"Observations from engineered and natural analogues as well as models suggest that the fraction retained in appropriately selected and managed geological reservoirs is very likely to exceed 99% over 100 years and is likely to exceed 99% over 1,000 years."

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