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MEDIA RELEASE

Carbon to products seminar – a pathway to a sustainable future

Brown Coal Innovation Australia (BCIA) in conjunction with Federation University will hold a one-day seminar on Carbon to Products in Churchill on Wednesday, 7 February 2018 to showcase the potential of the carbon resource in the Latrobe region.

Carbon, in the form of brown coal and lignin, has traditionally been used predominately for the production of electricity and, in earlier times for coal briquettes in home heating and for industrial use.

Advances in science has opened up new options for the utilisation of these vast carbon resources. The seminar will showcase some of the potential uses and research into these new technologies and the industry applications within the agriculture, manufacturing, transport, new energy and waste sectors.

An exciting line-up of speakers, including international representatives from the US and Japan, will be presenting the latest advances in research and industrial applications in the carbon space.

BCIA Chief Executive, Mr Brian Davey said: "We are all aware of the impact that closure of power stations in the Latrobe Valley is having on the economy and the challenge is to find a way to successfully transition to other industries based on our cheap and reliable carbon resources; whether these are sourced from coal, timber or the paper industry."

"Our objective is to diversify the Latrobe Valley economy to ensure a long term viable manufacturing future based on the Valley's single most abundant and competitive asset - carbon, even if this does not involve power production. If it does, it's a bonus," said Mr Davey.

Professor Leigh Sullivan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) Federation University commented: "The university's aim is to assist local industries as they develop a wide range of high value carbon-based commercial products including fertilisers, graphene for use in electronics, new energy, railway axles, fuels, polymers, all based on the high quality carbon resources that have underpinned much of the economic growth of our region. With BCIA, Federation University looks forward to hosting this seminar which will highlight exciting opportunities for the use of our carbon resources to continue to help drive our region's economy."

The seminar will be an open forum to highlight the potential of the resource and how it can be developed under a low emissions regime integrated with renewable energy. Although free to attend, registration is essential by Friday, 26 January to reserve your seat.

To find out more about this event and for registration please contact Kirstyn Krausz, BCIA Membership Support Manager at info@bcinnovation.com.au or phone 03) 9653 9601.