

3 April 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Carbon Innovation creating new industry opportunities

Brown Coal Innovation Australia (BCIA) has announced a new name, a new logo and new website as part of an extensive refocusing initiative. The company will now be known as Australian Carbon Innovation (ACI), effective immediately.

ACI will continue to operate in the same professional capacity, with the name and branding change reflecting the need to represent all of the carbon sources required for a long term sustainable economy. The new direction and priorities of the company, and the brown coal industry, is best summed up by the new tag line “Creating a sustainable carbon future”.

ACI chief executive officer Brian Davey says the new name reflects the evolving focus and strategic direction of the company, and the use of brown coal and other carbon sources for uses other than power generation.

“Carbon is an essential element in the transition to a new low emission sustainable economy. Gippsland’s vast resource of carbon, whether from coal, timber or hydrocarbons represents an invaluable asset to its citizens. Our objective is to find ways to sustainably utilise this resource for current and future generations.”

Part of the new ACI direction is to take the extensive R&D work, that has been supported by BCIA, to commercial proof of concept stage, thus motivating industry to invest in high-value domestic production of new, often export-focussed, products that make best use of an abundant resource.

Carbon can be converted to many high-value products including, but not limited to: hydrogen, activated carbons, urea, soil conditioners, carbon fibre, dimethyl ether (a LPG substitute), chars and many others.

Brown coal is Victoria’s single largest natural resource and is a carbon resource of world class standard with low ash, sulphur and heavy metals. None-the-less it is only one source of carbon that can be utilised in the agri-sector, manufacturing and chemical industries.

The core objective of Australian Carbon innovation is to increase Australia’s high value exports to developing neighbouring markets and, by so doing, to deliver long-term jobs from the sustainable use of a carbon resource that, previously, was only considered as fuel.

Since its inception in 2009, BCIA (now ACI) has provided funding support for 60 R&D projects, provided 16 PhD scholarships and 90 direct jobs. Delivering a combined investment value of over \$57 million. ACI will continue to invest in research and development to ensure support for innovative technologies that can deliver low emission outcomes and foster Australia’s research leadership in the carbon space. That investment will see ongoing

collaboration with researchers and industry plus expanding technology and training opportunities.

ACI is a not-for-profit, member-based company with a mandate to co-invest with stakeholders in the skills and technologies required to achieve a sustainable, low-emissions future for Victoria's carbon resources. The renamed company will continue to invest in both areas as it seeks to develop sustainable future uses of carbon .

For more information visit the ACI website www.acinnovation.com.au

Media interviews: Kirstyn Krausz, ACI Membership Support Manager, Tel: 0413 187 576
Email: kkrausz@acinnovation.com.au

About Australian Carbon Innovation (ACI)

ACI is a not-for-profit, member-based company with a mandate to invest in the skills development of the future workforce and the technologies required to achieve a sustainable, low-emissions future for Victoria's carbon resource.

Established in late 2009, the parent company has received significant funding from the Victorian Government, through the Energy Technology Innovation Strategy, and the Australian Government, via a relationship agreement with Australia National Low Emissions Coal R&D (ANLEC R&D).

Australia has vast brown coal deposits encompassing about a quarter of the world's known reserves, a significant forest industry and oil and gas reserves. Innovation to achieve improved technology for carbon usage involves substantial cost and time. Investment in R&D has significant benefits for industry competitiveness and Australia's future economic prosperity.

ACI funds and facilitates multi-million dollar research and skills development investments to drive innovation in the carbon value-chain; from resource sourcing to the capture, utilisation and storage of CO₂. Strategic management of its R&D investment portfolio underpins ACI's innovation support and operational activities.

ACI innovation funding supports research and development initiatives that are technically outstanding and that will lead to increased commercial deployment of low-emissions carbon product technologies in the short, medium and long term.

Beyond emissions reduction, current and future international price indications for oil, gas and metallurgical coal provide new exploitation opportunities for the conversion of carbon to liquids and other high-value commodities. ACI's research investment objectives are:

- to advance and accelerate innovative technologies in Australia by supporting focused, collaborative research in high priority technologies
- to retain local expertise in, and attract international expertise to, Australia in support of investment in carbon-related technologies
- to support growth in skills and capacity in Australian carbon-related technologies for the domestic and international markets
- to make the results of that research available, as appropriate and respecting intellectual property, to ACI's funders and to the Australian public.