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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Latrobe Valley coal and energy executive to head research company

Brown Coal Innovation Australia (BCIA) today announced the appointment of well-known Victorian coal and energy sector executive, Brian Davey, as the Company's new Chief Executive. Mr Davey has more than 30 years' experience across various industry sectors including operations, financial management, marketing and technology and is a long-term resident of the Latrobe Valley.

Mr Davey also has a strong track record in innovation, research and project management having developed and implemented various advanced coal technology programs for the Victorian Government over the course of nearly a decade. After leaving the public service four years ago, he worked as a consultant supporting several international clients to advance lignite projects in India and Indonesia.

BCIA Chair, Gerry Morvell, welcomed the appointment of Mr Davey and said the Board was delighted to have attracted an outstanding candidate with detailed knowledge of the Latrobe Valley coal and energy sectors. "Significantly, Mr Davey shares the Board's vision of an alternative low-emissions future for Victoria's world-class carbon resource, together with skills development opportunities for the Valley matched to future industry needs."

Mr Davey began his career with the former State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV) in the Latrobe Valley and, following privatisation of the Commission, was appointed to a senior management role for one of the newly created private energy companies. He was most recently employed by Regional Development Victoria as a trade and investment specialist to assist companies impacted by the closure of Hazelwood power station.

Mr Davey said: "There are a number of emerging technologies which offer significant potential to transform Latrobe Valley lignite into a range of environmentally responsible products – including low-emissions power, carbon fibres and polymers, fertilisers and building products. I am delighted that this new role provides such an enormous opportunity to positively shape a strong, sustainable future for the Latrobe Valley."

Mr Morvell said: "On behalf of the BCIA Board, I wish to thank Dr Phil Gurney for his exceptional leadership during the past six years which has seen BCIA surpass all of its government funding objectives, achieve significant momentum in rebuilding Victoria's scientific capability and positioned our Company as a research world-leader."

Mr Morvell said the Board was pleased that Dr Gurney had agreed to remain as a non-executive director of BCIA and, as such, would continue to play an important role in ensuring a sustainable future for Victoria's lignite resource. Mr Davey will commence in his new role in mid May this year.

Mr Davey is also an experienced director and is a current Board member of the West Gippsland Healthcare Group and Agribusiness Gippsland. Together with his wife, he runs a small stud beef farm in west Gippsland.

#### **More information:**

Gerry Morvell, BCIA Chair

Tel: + 61 408 990 825

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#### **Brown Coal Innovation Australia Limited**

► Suite 420, 1 Queens Road, Melbourne, Victoria 3004 Australia  
Tel +61 3 9653 9601 | Fax +61 3 9653 9026 | ABN 51 141 273 261  
Web [www.bcinnovation.com.au](http://www.bcinnovation.com.au) | Email [info@bcinnovation.com.au](mailto:info@bcinnovation.com.au)