

## Carbon Team To Hunt Storage Sites

**A** taskforce set up to identify suitable carbon storage sites has held its first meeting with a brief to produce a carbon mapping and infrastructure plan by June 2009.

Resources and Energy Minister Martin Ferguson said the plan will prioritise the development of geological storage sites for carbon capture and storage and pipeline infrastructure. Ferguson said the government's commitment to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2050 from 2000 levels will require substantial carbon dioxide reductions from coal-fired power stations.

"No serious approach to climate change can ignore the need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from coal and the government is committed to helping develop large-scale demonstration projects in order to assess the



*Resources and Energy Minister Martin Ferguson said the government is committed to helping develop large-scale demonstration projects in order to assess the feasibility of carbon capture and storage.*

feasibility of carbon capture and storage", he said.

Coal provides around 80% of Australia's total electricity and accounts for 32% of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions.

Ferguson said the 16-member taskforce would be chaired by Keith Spence, who brings a wealth of experience from the oil and gas sector in various capacities at Royal Dutch Shell and Woodside Petroleum. Other members include representatives from government, the coal, oil and gas industries, power generators, the pipeline sector, unions and environmental groups.

"The high caliber of representatives ensures the taskforce has the necessary expertise to develop a plan to assist Australia in developing what is an essential technology", Ferguson said. ■