

# *How can we make CCS happen: A regulator's perspective*

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# Content

- Status of CCS interest in Australia
- Background on CCS legislation in Australia;
- South Australian CCS regulatory framework;
- Important technical challenges with CCS; and
- How best to progress large scale CCS deployment.



# CCS Offshore Permits in Australia

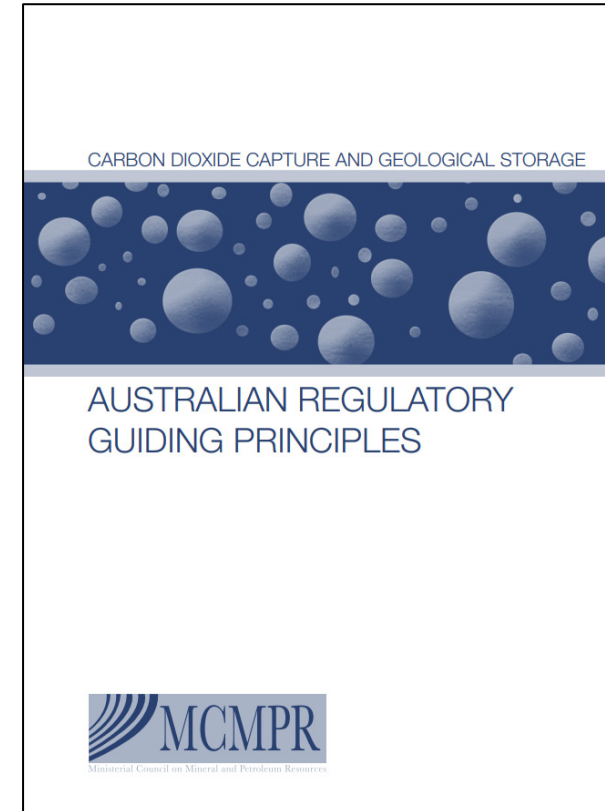


Source: NOPTA

# Effective CCS Legislation – historical context

In 2005 COAG/MCMPR published guiding regulatory principles for CCS, calling for:

- Effective resource access and property rights
  - *Secure CCS storage rights – industry investment certainty*
- Nationally consistent assessment and approval processes
  - *Risk based regulation – Process Safety Management framework*
- Effective Monitoring and Verification
  - *Demonstrate CCS is working*
- Long term liability post closure
  - *Once secure storage is demonstrated – liability reverts to state*





# Example: Regulatory Framework

- South Australian *Energy Resources Act 2000* covers all CCS stages - established in 2009 in response to the 2005 COAG/MCMPR guiding regulatory principles
- Why regulate CCS:
  1. Underground resources in Australia belong to the Crown – including the pore space for CCS.
  2. Licensing – secure rights and tenure
  3. Environmental assessment –
    - a) focussing on risks and objectives to address those risks [Moomba CCS Project EIR](#) and [Moomba CCS SEO](#)
    - b) early stakeholder engagement
    - c) adoption of relevant and recognised standards
  4. Efficient and effective approvals and surveillance
  5. Effective and transparent Monitoring and Verification [Monitoring and Verification Plan](#)
  6. Rental payments for use of pore space
  7. Minimise risk to State of long-term liability

Version: 11.7.2024	
South Australia	
<b>Energy Resources Act 2000</b>	
An Act to regulate exploration for, and the recovery, production, transmission, storage and management of, certain energy resources, and for other purposes.	
<b>Contents</b>	
Part 1—Preliminary	
Division 1—Formal	
1	Short title
Division 2—Objects of Act	
3	Objects
Division 3—Interpretation	
4	Interpretation
Division 4—Rights of the Crown	
5	Rights of the Crown
Part 2—Administration	
Division 1—The Minister	
6	Administration
6A	Interaction with other legislation
7	Delegation
Division 2—Authorised officers	
8	Authorised officers
9	Identity cards
Division 3—Authorised investigation or survey	
9A	Authorised investigation or survey
Part 3—Licensing regulated activities	
Division 1—Requirement for licence	
10	Regulated activities
11	Requirement for licence
Published under the <i>Legislation Revision and Publication Act 2002</i>	
1	

# Important technical CCS matters



- Above all, objective is to maintain 95% plus CCS network availability – community confidence
- Understand the underground geology and hydrodynamic behaviour of CO<sub>2</sub> plume
- Understand CO<sub>2</sub> phase behaviour (gas vs dense phase) for a particular CO<sub>2</sub> Stream specification
- Know your CO<sub>2</sub> stream specification/composition – establish what impurities are present
- Impurities affect phase behaviour – in turn can lead to uncontrollable corrosion
- Expected phases of operation, pressure and temperature variations due to:
  - Start-ups: – incl. commissioning
  - Shut-downs: planned and unplanned
  - Depressurisation events: planned and unplanned
- Material selection and dehydration: addressing corrosion risks – don't forget what happened at Gorgon!

# Some observations to progress CCS:



- Above all: must have consistent federal government CO<sub>2</sub> abatement policy, best to be technologically agnostic – don't pick winners – allow all technologies to serve their purpose
- Remove potential policy barriers to CCS deployment
- Best achieved through an effective financial incentive framework – e.g. ACCUs/carbon price/effective safe-guard mechanism?
- Recognise and acknowledge that CCS is “**a**” CO<sub>2</sub> abatement technology not “**the**” abatement technology
- Won't be long before narrative moves from “net-zero” to “net-negative” – hence importance of CCS
- Efficient, effective and practical regulation premised on:
  - Continuing development and implementation of best practice CCS standards including (M&V)

# Some observations to progress CCS:



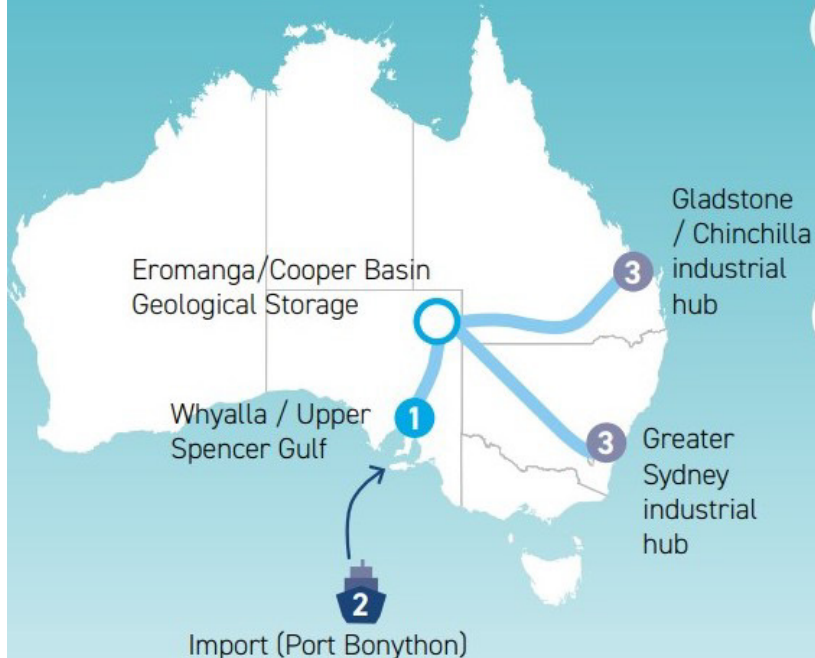
- Need economies of scale: establish CCS hubs – adjacent to point sources – e.g. steel/cement/power plants
- Viable Ship transport – Australia has potential to become Asia’s CCS hub!
- Regional hub maybe? Australia/Indonesia work together?
- Government/industry partnerships  
– particularly for key infrastructure ([SA Government CCUS Infrastructure Report](#))
- Establish community confidence in CCS by proving that CCS works – tell and show the world why Gorgon and Moomba CCS projects are proving to be successful – sell the wins!



# South Australian CCUS Infrastructure Report

## Next Steps

ISA undertook this study to understand the potential establishment of a CCUS industry in SA and the ability to address local, national and international opportunities. This study indicates that a range of opportunities exist for SA and presents one potential scenario for infrastructure and partnerships. The next steps will further explore the opportunities and feasibility of CCUS for SA.



1

**CCUS Partnerships** – Establish a holistic CCUS forum (network or similar) across all elements of the supply chain, including regulators, industrial emitters, technology partners, potential owners/operators, and research and development partners.

2

**Development Pathway** – Undertake a strategic assessment of the frameworks under which a CCUS ecosystem would be developed, regulatory approvals, engage with supply chain operators, and undertake analysis of discrete project elements and business models

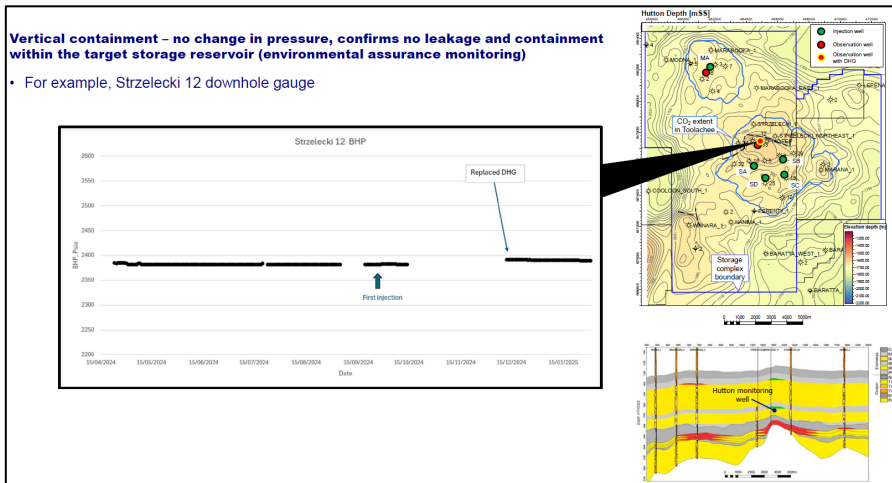
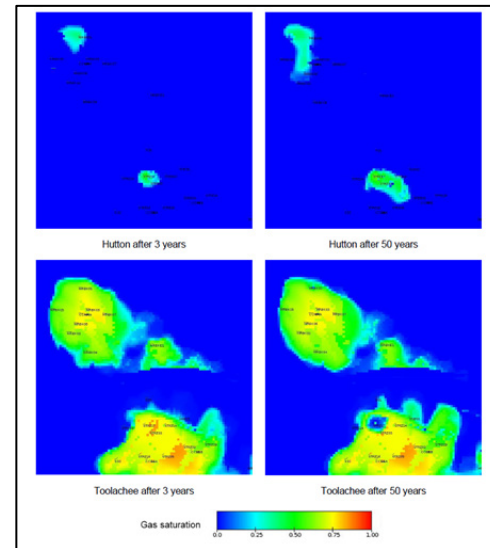
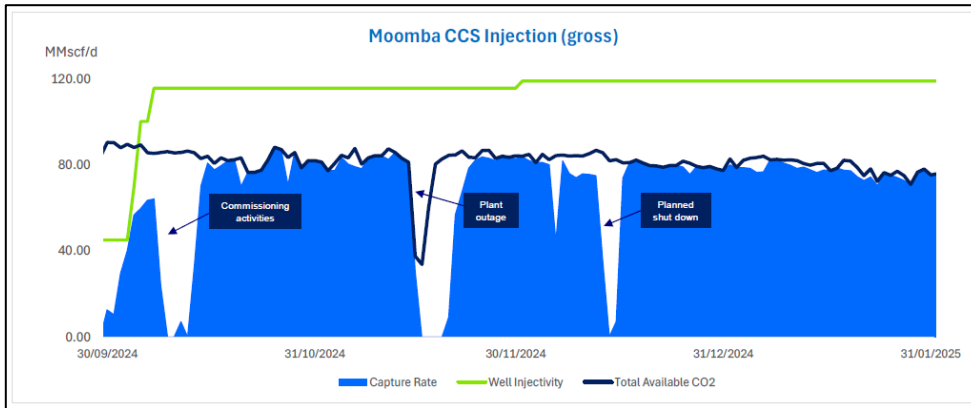
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**Detailed Business Case** – A detailed business case will be developed for feasible opportunities identified as part of Step 2, including preferred operating model and underpinning infrastructure

# Some observations to progress CCS:



- Establish community confidence in CCS by proving that CCS works – tell and show the world why CCS projects are proving to be successful e.g. Gorgon and Moomba – sell the wins!



[Link to public report](#)

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