

Carbon taskforce to focus on CO2 storage sites

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THE federal government's Carbon Storage Taskforce will produce a national carbon mapping and infrastructure plan by June 2009, according to Resources and Energy Minister Martin Ferguson.

The plan will prioritise the development of geological storage sites for carbon capture and storage, and plan necessary pipeline infrastructure.

Former Woodside Energy senior executive Keith Spence will chair the taskforce.

Ferguson said Spence's oil and gas sector experience along with expertise from other members from government, the coal, oil and gas industries, power generators, pipeline sector, unions, and environmental organisations would ensure the taskforce had the ability to "develop a plan to assist Australia in developing what is an essential technology".



Federal Minister for
Resources and Energy
Martin Ferguson

He added the taskforce is pivotal to the development of the government's \$500 million National Low Emissions Coal Initiative and complements the research and development work to be undertaken by the National Low Emissions Coal Research Centre.

"The Australian government's commitment to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by 60 per cent [on 2000 levels] by 2050 will require substantial CO2 reductions from Australia's coal-fired power stations," he said.

"No serious approach to climate change can ignore the need to reduce CO2 emissions from coal and the government is committed to helping develop large-scale demonstration projects in order to assess the feasibility of CCS."