



Research granted \$600,000

RESEARCH into future low-emissions products from Latrobe Valley brown coal has been given a shot in the arm with \$600,000 of Victorian government funding for Australian Carbon Innovation.

The funding will allow ACI to seek additional partnerships to research and develop new, high-value products including hydrogen, carbon fibres, graphenes and fertilisers.

The state government's Statement on Future Uses of Brown Coal sets the parameters to ensure only low-emission product development can take place around the use of coal.

The not-for-profit research group is working with Federation University on a feasibility study for establishing a Regional Carbon Innovation Centre in Gippsland.

Minister for Resources Jaclyn Symes said it was important to back innovation in the pursuit of new jobs and industries.

"I know the Gippsland Regional Partnership has flagged that Latrobe Valley locals want to see investment in new technologies," Ms Symes said.

"The work of Australian Carbon Innovation and CarbonNet is vital in placing Victoria at the forefront of global low-emission technology development."

ACI chief executive officer Brian Davey welcomed the state government support and said different forms of carbon would be central to developing a modern economy and advanced manufacturing society.

He said this was particularly true in the Latrobe Valley where the economy and community was transitioning from coal-fired power.

"Carbon is an essential element in the transition to a new low-emission sustainable economy," Mr Davey said.

"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."

ACI chairman Gerry Morvell congratulated the state government for the "foresight in looking past old uses for lignite and embracing what is possible into the future".

"Victoria's lignite provides a low cost, low emission and low contaminant feedstock for the development of new industries and products that are in demand not only in Australia but also the rest of the world," Mr Morvell said.

"Future investment will lead to new commercial opportunities in these and other technologies that will result in more jobs for more people of Gippsland."