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New engine technology trial in Victoria

A Direct Injection Carbon Engine (DICE) will be trialled in Victoria's Latrobe Valley with the aim of reducing emissions from brown coal generated electricity by 50% compared to current technology.

The announcement by the CSIRO came in the wake of the federal government's release of the *Emissions Reduction Fund White Paper*, a central component to its Direct Action Plan alternative to the previous government's carbon tax.

Brown Coal Innovation Australia (BCIA) has allocated \$1 million to the technology trial, which is designed to maximise the value of Australia's unique resource by significantly reducing emissions associated with the use of brown coal.

The advanced coal technology involves converting coal or biomass into a water based slurry that is directly injected into a large, specially adapted diesel engine. The fuel burns to produce intense temperature and pressure in the engine, which provides highly efficient power to turn electrical generators.

An existing laboratory scale prototype engine will trial fuel based on Victorian brown coal and this work will be followed by trials using the same fuel in a large scale test engine in Japan.

This research will help determine whether DICE can enable brown coal to produce Australia's lowest cost reduced CO2 electricity for the staged replacement of existing coal power plants.

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