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# MEDIA RELEASE

## BCIA welcomes new Chief Executive and Board Directors

Brown Coal Innovation Australia (BCIA) today signalled a significant step forward in the independent Company's development with the appointment of Dr Phil Gurney as full-time Chief Executive and Margaret Donnan and Michael Hutchison as new independent Directors.

Dr Gurney (BSc, PhD) is a highly experienced executive with a strong track record in research management and innovation and the commercialisation of new technologies. Ms Donnan is a leader in the Australian plastics and chemicals industry and Mr Hutchinson is an experienced executive in power generation with a wealth of experience in the development of new energy projects including low emissions coal initiatives.

BCIA Chair, Gerry Morvell, said: "BCIA recently marked a strong first year of achievements encompassing significant investments in skills development and technology innovation including the awarding of two BCIA Research Leader fellowships and five postgraduate research scholarships and finalisation of State and Commonwealth funding agreements; the latter via a relationship agreement with Australian National Low Emissions Coal (ANLEC) R&D.

"The appointment of Dr Gurney and our two new Directors complements and significantly enhances the breadth of BCIA's governance and management expertise and provides a solid foundation for the next leaps forward in the Company's development including the imminent results of our inaugural funding for research and development in low-cost, low-emissions energy and high-value products derived from brown coal.

"BCIA's investment portfolio is proving to be a key entry point and focus for significant investment by brown coal industry participants including coal-fired energy operators and new technology providers, governments, research providers and tertiary education institutions. Our strategic investment in low emissions brown coal technology innovation will secure Australia's low cost energy supply and the nation's future prosperity."

Dr Gurney's career spans a broad range of sectors including e-health, manufacturing, biomedical, telecoms, IT, defence and consultancy, with the common theme being identifying and obtaining the best outcomes from R&D projects and managing research teams to succeed in the broader competitive industry environment.

Prior to joining BCIA, Dr Gurney held a number of senior positions in international organisations, most recently as CEO of the Australian eHealth Research Centre; a joint venture between CSIRO and the Queensland Government. He was a founder and Managing Director of VPIsystems, and oversaw the expansion of the company from Australia to US, Europe and Asia. His appointment to the full-time position of BCIA CEO followed a highly competitive national recruitment process which attracted more than 80 applications.

Brown Coal Innovation Australia Limited

Level 27, 101 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000 Australia  
Tel +61 3 9653 9601 | Fax +61 3 9653 9026 | ABN 51 141 273 261

Web [www.bcinnovation.com.au](http://www.bcinnovation.com.au) | Email [info@bcinnovation.com.au](mailto:info@bcinnovation.com.au)

Dr Gurney's career started in the UK, where he worked for GEC Avionics before coming to Australia to join the Australian Photonics CRC. He has worked with a range of organisations, including Defence Science Technology Organisation (DSTO), and has consulted on growth strategies for SMEs and not-for-profit organisations. He has also held board positions with US and Australian organisations.

Dr Gurney commenced as Chief Executive Officer of BCIA on 7 March 2011. He succeeds Dr Bruce Godfrey (BE, PhD) who was appointed BCIA's CEO, on part-time basis, following the establishment of the company in late 2009. It is anticipated that Dr Godfrey will remain involved in BCIA's development into the future.

Mr Morvell said: "On behalf of the BCIA Board, I wish to acknowledge and thank Dr Godfrey for his efforts as interim CEO during the past 18 months, particularly establishment of the strategic, legal and financial management fundamentals of the Company to provide a solid basis for interaction with our members, governments and partners."

In February 2011, Ms Margaret Donnan [BSc, MSc (Chem), Member Australian Institute of Company Directors] and Mr Michael Hutchinson [BEng, Member Institute of Engineers Australia] were formally appointed as new Directors of the Company. The appointments were approved by the Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources, the Hon. Michael O'Brien, for the State of Victoria (BCIA's founding member).

Ms Donnan is Chief Executive of the Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association (PACIA) – the peak national industry association representing more than 170 member companies in Australia's third largest manufacturing sector.

Ms Donnan has worked in both government and industry and is a recognised leader in best-practice major hazard control and in health, safety, security and environmental regulation in complex and challenging industrial environments. She is committed to sustainability and industry leadership and has a strong track record in effective member/client relations, organisational representation and advocacy, and in working with Ministers, governments, industry, community and research sectors.

Mr Hutchinson is Director Operations and Construction, TRUenergy, and is responsible for development and implementation of the company's new energy projects including low emissions coal initiatives. He also manages the company's three billion dollar plus portfolio of electricity generation, coal mining, gas processing and storage assets (including brown coal facilities in Victoria's Latrobe Valley).

Mr Hutchinson has significant experience in power station operational management and recognised expertise in the development of future electricity generation project opportunities across a broad range of energy sources. Additionally, he has extensive experience in project management of new build and expansion projects in electricity generation and gas processing within Australia, New Zealand and throughout Asia.

In addition to the new appointments, the BCIA Board comprises Gerry Morvell (Chair); Dr John Burgess and Roy Adair; all of whom are independent Directors of the Company.

**More information:**

Mandy Frostick, BCIA Communications Manager

Tel: + 61 3 9653 9601 Fax: +61 3 9653 9026

Email: [mandy.frostick@messageworks.com.au](mailto:mandy.frostick@messageworks.com.au)

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