

# CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE

Roundtable Discussion – Policy & Legislation

**Peta Ashworth** – Senior Social Scientist  
CSIRO





# CCS – The public view

## Findings from around the world

Energy Transformed Flagship

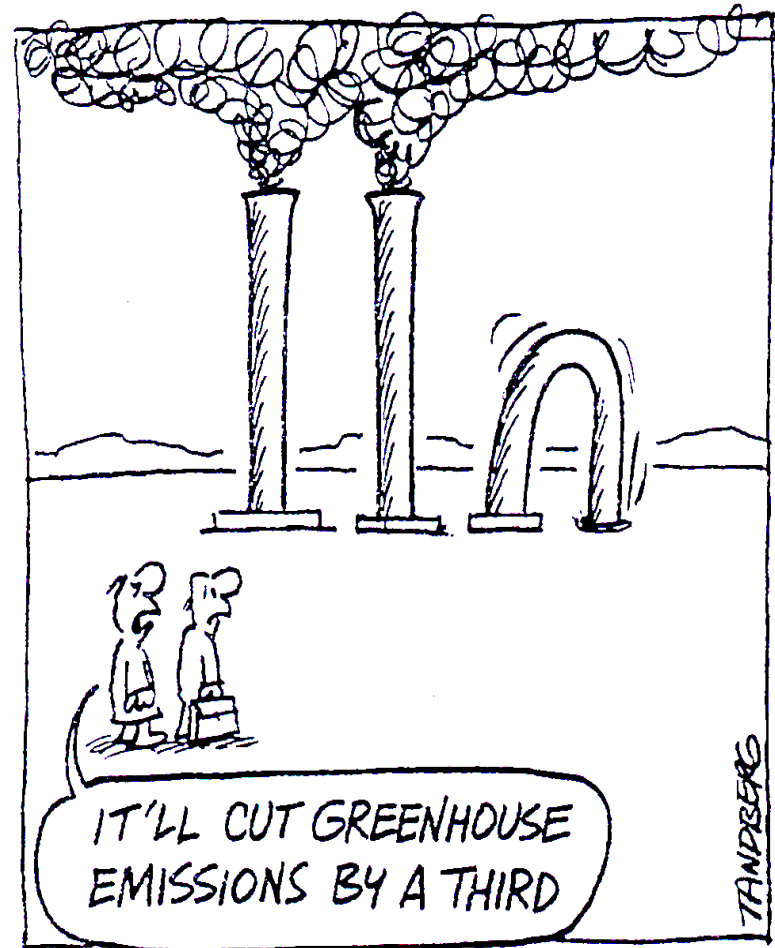
**Peta Ashworth**  
**Senior Social Scientist**  
**30<sup>th</sup> October, 2007**

National Research  
**FLAGSHIPS**



# A Rorschach Test: What is CCS?

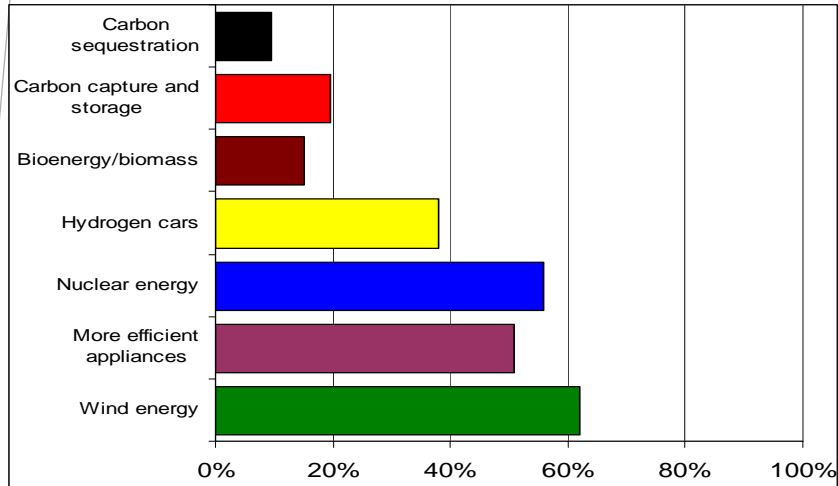
- Carbon Capture Must Be Major Global Priority - Shell Executive – *CNN*
- Bolt-on adjustments to the fossil-fuel status quo – *The Guardian (Comment)*
- Gas traps: salvation or delusion? – *The Age (Australia)*
- Recycled geological structures to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> – *Independent (S. Africa)*
- Carbon dioxide storage holds limited promise: Approach could halve industrial emissions by 2050 – *Nature*



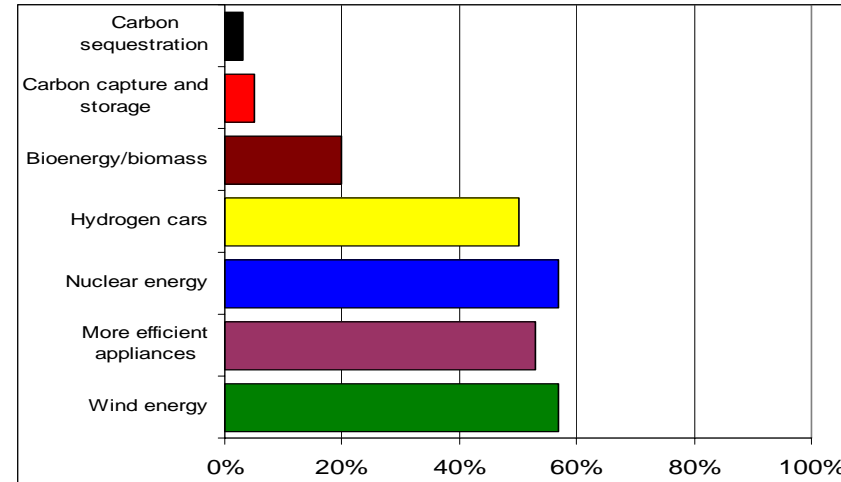
David Reiner, Judge Business School, University of Cambridge

# Public Awareness: heard/read of the following in the past year

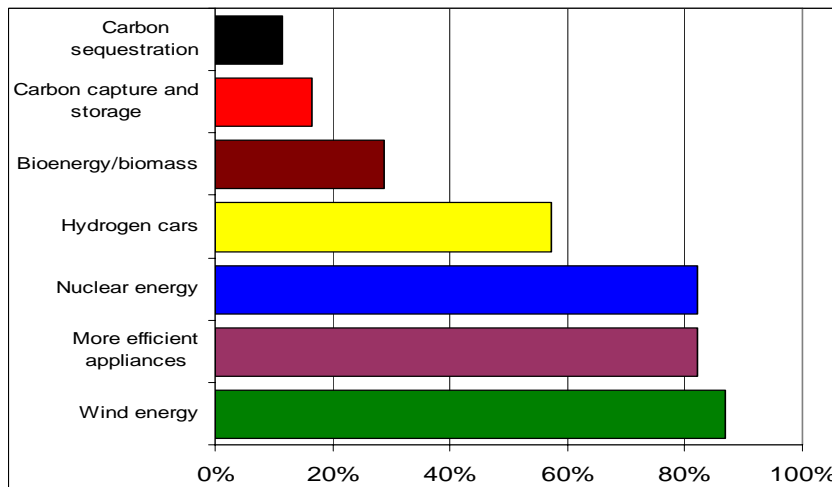
## Australia



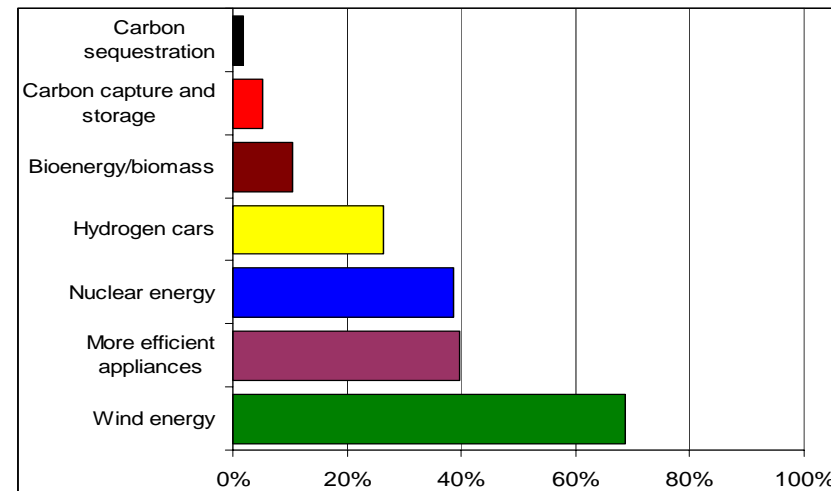
## US



## Spain



## UK



# Prioritised CCS issues

- 1. Cost of deployment:** CCS projects are large compared to other low-carbon options (solar panels, hybrid cars) and are therefore perceived as expensive even though on a unit basis, their cost (per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> avoided) is significantly lower.
- 2. Scale of deployment:** In common with other low-carbon options (wind generators and biofuels), small-scale CCS deployment will have little impact, but deployment at a scale that would make a significant difference to climate change, is not well understood.
- 3. Perceived risks (to local health and safety):** There are so few operational CCS projects in the world that the perception of local risks associated with catastrophic leakage of CO<sub>2</sub> from storage is immature, but very important to address.

# Prioritised CCS issues

- 4. Lack of accessible information:** There is relatively little information that is geared towards the public on CCS. Research has shown that focus groups become more supportive of the technology once they have basic information and better context.
- 5. Supporting policies:** Views on this are the most dichotomous. Those who believe that fossil fuels will be required to raise living standards in the developing world advocate policies to support CCS. Others see CCS threatening to delay the deployment of renewables.
- 6. Adequacy of regulatory frameworks to address the perceived risks:** No region has a comprehensive regulatory framework governing CCS, but several processes are now under consideration.

# What have we learnt?

- “Dialogue” “consultation” “discussion” not just one way information sharing
- Context matters
- Trust and honesty is crucial
- Provide balanced, valid and accessible information – range of sources
- Not advocating or persuading
- Not at the expense of renewables
- Face to face, one on one....
- Technology diffusion
- Strong regulation and monitoring required – independent body?

# And from the 11 year olds' perspective!

Dear Mr Bradshaw,

We are two year six students from the International Baccalaureate School, Red Hill Primary. We are currently inquiring into the relationship between population growth and energy use. **We are convinced that Geosequestration would provide a solution to carbon dioxide emissions** produced from coal energy plants and would like to know more about it.

After viewing an episode of Catalyst on geosequestration, we have recorded your name down as an expert on geosequestration and hope that you will share some information on it with us. If you would be able to help us answer these questions or give us some useful websites to look at we would be very thankful.

- Do you think Geosequestration is a practical and achievable solution towards CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from coal energy plants? And why?
- What steps would we, as Australians have to take to ensure the success of geosequestration as a permanent solution?
- Is there another country or city that is already using geosequestration successfully?
- What would it cost to install geosequestration?
- Would it be worth us visiting Geoscience Australia on Hindmarsh Drive to see any other information on this? Or to talk with any other experts?

We thank you in advance for your time and professional opinions.

## Energy Transformed Flagship

Peta Ashworth  
Senior Social Scientist

**Phone:** +61 7 3327 4145

**Email:** [peta.ashworth@csiro.au](mailto:peta.ashworth@csiro.au)

**Web:** [www.csiro.au/group](http://www.csiro.au/group)

[www.csiro.au](http://www.csiro.au)

# Thank you

## Contact Us

**Phone:** 1300 363 400 or +61 3 9545 2176

**Email:** [Enquiries@csiro.au](mailto:Enquiries@csiro.au) **Web:** [www.csiro.au](http://www.csiro.au)

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