



ACARP matters because it is an investment in the future of the coal industry

As companies wind back their own R&D capability, ACARP remains as almost the only source of R&D funding and management available to the industry. It does the research well, once, and for all without wasting valuable research dollars.

The levy rate of five cents per tonne has not changed since ACARP began in 1992, whereas inflation has increased 40 per cent. In almost all cases you can offset ACARP levy payments against royalties and also claim it as an R&D tax credit. Administration overheads remain low because of the voluntary support from the industry's best people.

ACARP and the research competence it has supported are critical components of the Australian coal industry. Thanks to ACARP's investment of around \$15 million per annum over the past 20 years, we have developed world-class research competence.

Around 120 highly skilled scientists are effectively working full time on addressing coal industry problems. If we include site contributions, co-funding from CSIRO and universities, it's probably closer to 200 scientists.

These are the specialists we turn to, to solve the challenges facing the coal industry, challenges that were often not on our radar, such as:

- Accurately measuring fugitive emissions with the introduction of the carbon tax
- Identifying and managing the risk of underground fires from lightning strikes
- Manage and ameliorate toxic blue green algal blooms.

While we can foresee some of the challenges ahead, there will be many surprises. Who will we turn to, to solve the next generation of industry issues? If ACARP goes, so do many of these scientists. They will turn to other areas of research or simply retire early. Attracting a new generation of scientists will be extremely difficult without ACARP funding research.

The recently released 20th anniversary book – *People Passion and the Pursuit of Excellence* – highlights numerous projects that have:

- Reduced production costs
- Improved plant yield
- Made mining safer
- Improved technical market support to boost coal sales
- Solved environmental challenges
- Documented the social impacts of mining
- Captured and stored industry knowledge via databases and expert reference works.

ACARP has also provided less tangible benefits such as building industry competence in managing research, political and OEM independence, becoming an industry wide voice of consensus and discussion forum, a change agent for industry at regulator, government and OEM levels, and the PhD scholarship program.

Remember, if ACARP goes, it's gone forever.