This project aims to build community support for carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology through an industrially scalable trial.

CTSCo is planning a trial injection of carbon dioxide in the Surat Basin as a step towards commercial development of the greater Basin for CO$_2$ storage.

**PURPOSE**

In addition to conducting a trial injection in the Surat Basin, the project will also provide vital technical information including:

- adapting a CO$_2$ capture technology (Post Combustion Capture, or PCC) to conditions at an Australian coal-fired power station
- refining techniques for detecting and monitoring the movement of the CO$_2$ plume
- developing greater local expertise and knowledge.

The current stage of the project will complete detailed engineering design for:

- a post-combustion capture plant with initial capacity of 60,000 tonnes of CO$_2$ per year, operating for three years
- storage of the captured CO$_2$ in the Surat Basin
- a capture plant expandable to 120,000 tonnes CO$_2$ per year, for a longer time at another location.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND FINDINGS**

The project’s pre-feasibility stage is complete and has established that there are no major barriers to a carbon capture and storage injection trial in the Surat Basin. The feasibility stage is nearing completion, and is informing the design and operating plans for CO$_2$ injection at the preferred geological storage site, and a preliminary design for a fit-for-purpose CO$_2$ capture plant using PCC technology at a nearby coal-fired power station.

The front-end engineering and design stage is in progress and will enable a financial investment decision on the project’s construction and operation stage. An extensive and ongoing community engagement program has resulted in broad local support for the project.
TIMING

The feasibility stage of the project commenced in November 2014. Engineering design is expected to be complete by June 2019.

PROCESS

The full project, including construction and operation stage, will be the first demonstration in Australia of the full carbon capture and storage process (comprising capture, transport, and storage) applied to a coal-fired power station.

The initial demonstration will be for between 60,000 and 120,000 tonnes CO$_2$ per year for three years, stored in the identified site in the Surat Basin.

There is the potential to expand to commercial scale (millions of tonnes CO$_2$ per year) with geological storage in the southern Surat Basin, which is being modelled by the University of Queensland through the Queensland Carbon Storage Assessment project.

The project’s next steps include the completion of the engineering design stage and the securing of environmental approvals and funding to allow the project to proceed to the construction and operation stage.

COAL21 will make a financial contribution to the next stage of the project, subject to satisfactory completion of the current stage of the project and favourable assessment of a proposal.