



FEnEx CRC News • August 2026



Australia to host world-first open-cut coal-mine methane research facility

Australia will host a world-first controlled methane release facility designed to simulate emissions from open-cut coal mines. The facility will test how accurately methane measurement technologies can detect, locate and measure emissions under realistic conditions.

FEnEx CRC has been selected as the Australian partner for the SIMFLEX-COAL project, working with St Francis Xavier University and Stanford University.

Discover more [here](#).



Final investment decision on hydrogen process plant marks next phase for Kwinana Energy Transformation Hub

FEnEx CRC has awarded an \$8.6 million EPC contract to Pacific Energy for the hydrogen process plant at the Kwinana Energy Transformation Hub (KETH). The contract marks the next phase of delivery for KETH's clean energy research and demonstration infrastructure.

Detailed design is now underway, with construction scheduled to commence in March 2027.

Read more about the project [here](#).



Identifying sites for Australia's controlled methane release study

This month, FEnEx CRC's CEO Professor Eric May and UWA research fellow Dr Chenglong Li travelled to NSW to further progress our [collaborative Controlled Release Methane Study](#) between FEnEx CRC, St. Francis Xavier University (StFX), Stanford University and The University of Western Australia. Dr Li also joined the international collaboration on the second site visit in South Australia. The study involves conducting a series of controlled methane release campaigns throughout 2027 using the SIMFLEX-COAL system developed by the StFX research group FluxLab.

The trip involved visiting candidate open-cut remediated mine pits in the Hunter Valley, NSW, and the former coal mine in Leigh Creek, SA, to assess potential sites for the controlled methane release campaign and gain a stronger understanding of the opportunities and practical challenges involved. Assessments involved using mobile and walking methane surveys, drone surveys and wind measurements, while considering site access, pit geometry, background methane and gas-release logistics. The team identified a strong candidate site in

the Hunter Valley and gained valuable insights into how the experiment could work in practice.

Dr Chenglong Li and the team of international collaborators also visited UNSW to discuss collaboration opportunities with Professor Bryce Kelly, Professor Simit Raval and former Australian Chief Scientist Dr Cathy Foley. They met with local council and site stakeholders to discuss permitting, monitoring, safety and practical requirements for the planned campaign. In Adelaide, the team continued discussions with Professor Jorg Hacker, Chief Scientist of Airborne Research Australia and Professor Emeritus at Flinders University, and Shakti Hacker.

This collaborative research project receives funding from the Australian Government through an agreement with the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO).

Find out more about the study [here](#).

FEnEx CRC Board vacancy

FEnEx CRC is seeking a new Chair to join its Board. The incoming Chair will lead the board through a pivotal period as FEnEx CRC transitions from research establishment to delivery, commercialisation and legacy sustainability beyond the CRC funded term.

We are seeking candidates with:

- Board Chair senior governance leadership experience
- Deep energy, resources, hydrogen or LNG sector experience
- Innovation, commercialisation and growth experience
- Strong WA presence and stakeholder networks
- Proven funding, investment and partnership capability

For a full position description or to submit your expression of interest, click [here](#) or contact [Vanessa Jolly](#).

Expressions of interest close 9am Wednesday **2 September 2026**.

Latest Publications

- [Contrasting the mineralogical and morphological changes during direct reduction of a haematite iron ore in hydrogen and ammonia at different temperatures](#)
- [Charge-Redistribution-Driven Dual-Single-Atom Catalysts on MXene for Hydrogen Evolution](#)
- [Dispersion Measurements for Underground Hydrogen Storage over Sequestered CO₂](#)
- [Predictive Simulation of Thermal Stratification and Transient Boil-Off from Cryogenic Liquids Using "Shortcut" Convection](#)
- [Molten Salt-Derived Co-intercalated TiS₂/MXene Heterostructure for Boosting Alkaline Overall Water Splitting](#)
- [MetaGAN: Multi-view consistency regularisation with Conditional GAN augmentation for Semi-supervised text classification](#)

View all FEnEx CRC publications on our website [here](#).

For your Calendar



28 August, 08:45 – 10:00 (AWST)

***Carbon removal that pays for itself:
Capture6's on-site model for hard-to-abate industries***

You are invited to join our monthly colloquium where Tom Ricciardi, Chief Commercial Officer of Capture6, will discuss Capture6's on-site carbon removal model for hard-to-abate industries.

As COO, Tom leads commercial strategy and growth for Capture6's water and carbon solutions. Serving as both advisor and business leader, he has negotiated, structured, secured, and monitored large scale investments in infrastructure projects, sovereigns, and supranationals.

To register, fill out the contact form on our [Connect](#) page and tick the 'monthly colloquium' box.



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