



Western Australia CCUS Hubs Workshop 19-20 February 2026

Outcomes - Summary

What are the opportunities and challenges associated with developing a multi-user CCUS hub in Western Australia, for Kwinana, Mid West and the Pilbara regions?

Executive Summary

Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) is a critical tool for decarbonising Australia's heavy industries, particularly where process emissions cannot be avoided. While multiple decarbonisation pathways must progress in parallel, this project focuses on CCUS and its role in Western Australia's industrial transition, consistent with the Western Australia CCUS Action Plan (2024).

Western Australia has the essential foundations for large scale CCUS deployment: extensive geological storage resources, a mature resource management history, established industrial clusters, and deep technical capability. In addition, key trading partners have ambitious net zero targets but limited domestic storage, creating demand for transboundary CO₂ transport and secure sequestration.

The primary barrier to CCUS deployment is not technology or geology, but the absence of an enabling State and Commonwealth policy framework. Australia must adopt strategic policy settings and fiscal mechanisms that support CCUS investment at scale. Without this, Australia's options for managing residual industrial emissions narrow to continued emissions, relocation or closure of production, or reliance on higher cost carbon dioxide removal.

National policy priorities include:

- A State and National CCUS Strategy / Roadmap
- A fit for purpose Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), including Safeguard Mechanism updates
- A Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)
- Government backed fiscal policy (financing, tax credits, state owned entity participation, CCfDs)

State level priorities include:

- Converting the Western Australia CCUS Action Plan into an actionable framework with milestones and delivery targets
- Commissioning CCUS Low Emissions Hub Concept Studies for Kwinana, the Mid West and the Pilbara

The Workshop

CCUSNA convened a two-day workshop to address a clear impasse: despite strong interest from government and industry, CCUS projects are not progressing to Final Investment Decision. Our convening theme was **“What are the opportunities and challenges in developing a multi-user CCUS hub in Western Australia (for Kwinana, Mid West and/or the Pilbara regions)?”**

Pre-workshop webinars provided expert insights into CCUS precincts, Australian policy settings, local hub considerations and international multi-user hub experience. The workshop brought together 100 delegates from industry, government and research to identify barriers and propose low-risk, near-term actions to build momentum and evaluate scalable options.



Workshop Outcomes

Opportunities

Western Australia is well positioned to develop one or more large-scale CCUS hubs, supported by unique geological, industrial and technical advantages (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Western Australia's unique opportunities for development of CCUS at scale

Challenges

The take home message from this workshop is clear – the primary obstacle to large-scale CO₂ development is not technological or geographical, but the absence of an enabling State and Commonwealth policy framework. Australia must choose between adopting integrated policy settings used by international peers or accepting that CCUS will remain a niche solution.



Although Australia has early legislative foundations (e.g., OPGGSA 2006), the current policy settings are among the least enabling in the OECD. This creates a disconnect between the nation's historically proactive stance and its present-day reliance on market-led development.

As a consequence there are only two operational CCS projects in Australia at scale which have only proceeded due to either a mandate (Gorgon CCS) or an ability to generate uniquely low cost Australia Carbon Credit Units (Moomba CCS).

Both projects address reservoir CO₂ only which is already separated during gas processing. Moving beyond this lowest-cost opportunity to tackle hard-to-abate emissions requires substantially stronger policy support.

Figure 2 summarises international CCUS policy approaches.

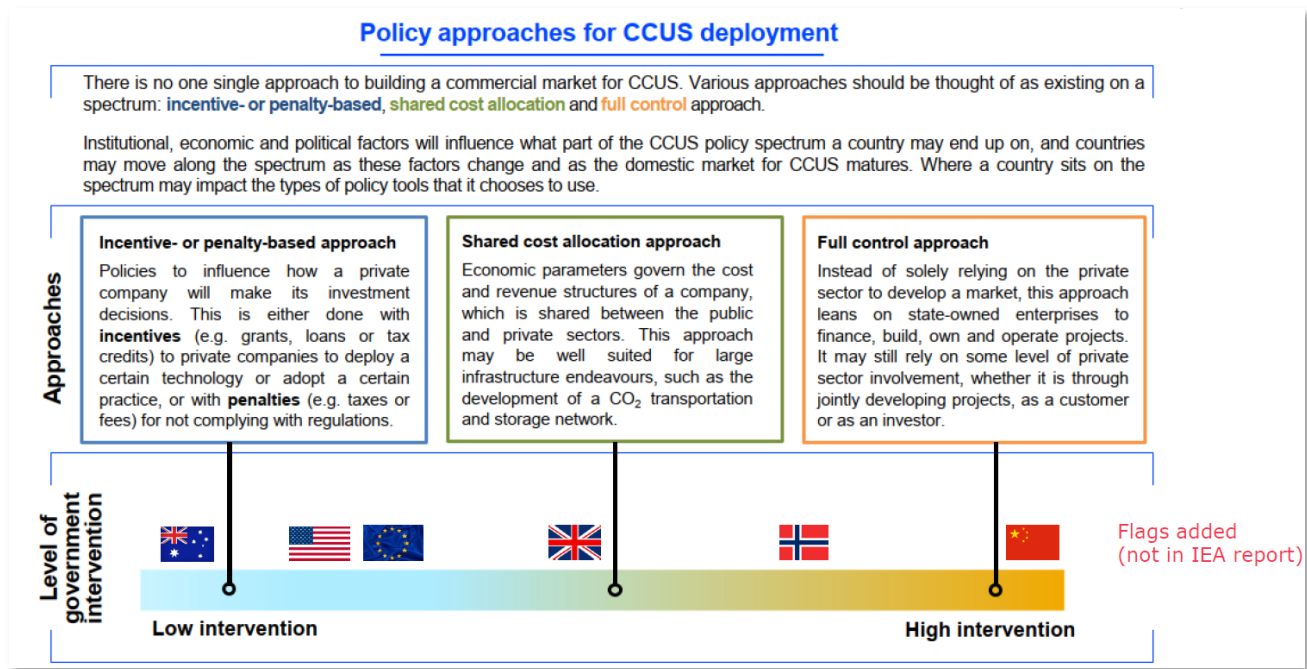


Figure 2: International Energy Agency (IEA) Summary of Policy Approaches for CCUS Deployment (Flags added by CCUSNA to reflect 2026 status).

CCUS Policy Options

CCUS policy measures fall into two categories:

- **Legislative and strategic policies** — establish the framework for CCUS and do not require direct fiscal support
- **Fiscal policies** — provide monetary support through grants, subsidies, debt financing, tax credits or CCfDs

Table 1 and Table 2 outline legislative, regulatory and fiscal policy settings in place in Australia in comparison to other regions.



REGION	Country	Legislation and Regulation Policy Options									
		Legislation and Regulation	London Protocol	Emissions Reduction Targets	CCUS Roadmap	Carbon Price or Market	Pore Space Access / Mandate	Injection Targets	Pore Space Royalty	CBAM	International Cooperation
	Australia	y	y	y	n	(y)	n	n	n	dev.	(y)
EUROPE	Denmark	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	y
	Netherlands	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	y
	Norway	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	(y)	y	y
	Germany	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
	UK	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	n	y	y
ASIA-PAC	China	n	n	y	y	y	(y)	y	n	y	(y)
	Japan	y	y	y	y	y	dev.	y	n	(y)	y
	South Korea	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	n	y	y
	Malaysia	y	n	y	y	y	n	y	y	n	y
	Indonesia	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	dev.	(y)
N. AMERICA	USA	y	n	n	y	n	n	n	n	dev.	(y)
	Canada	y	y	y	y	y	n	(y)	y	dev.	(y)
MIDDLE EAST	Saudi Arabia	y	y	y	n	y	y	y	n	dev.	y
	Qatar	y	n	y	y	n	y	y	n	dev.	(y)

Table 1 : Legislation, Regulation and Strategic Policy Options for CCUS by Country

In these tables abbreviations are as follows; (y) - a partial policy in place "dev." - a policy in development, "CCS" - Carbon Capture and Storage, "EOR" - Enhanced Oil Recovery, "NOC" - National Oil Company, "SGM" - Safeguard Mechanism, CBAM – Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, SOE – State Owned Entity, NZF - Net Zero Fund, CCfD – Carbon Contracts for Difference.



REGION	Country	Fiscal Policy Options						Comments
		Grants	Financing	Project Equity / SOE	Tax Credits	CCfD	Government purchase of product	
	Australia	y	Maybe under NZF?	n	n	n	(y)	Very little dedicated CCUS support - free market approach with SGM as main driver
EUROPE	Denmark	y	y	y	(y)	y	(y)	Denmark has rapidly accelerated CCUS with clear bipartisan support. Nordsøfonden (NOC) is legislated to take a 20% participation in all storage licences.
	Netherlands	y	y	y	(y)	y	y	EBN (Energie Beheer Nederland) acts as the state partner, holding 40% equity in storage projects to ensure public oversight and risk-sharing. SDE++ functions as a CCfD
	Norway	y	y	y	n	y	y	Often the first country in each of these policy categories has seen Norway as a key knowledge holder for CCUS
	Germany	y	y	(y)	n	y	y	Very large changes from a "no CCS" stance to strong practical support and legislation in just a few years
	UK	y	y	n	n	y	y	Support for CCUS remains strong and unchanged with change of government, through CCfD and injection targets
ASIA-PAC	China	y	y	y	(y)	n	y	Large scale CCUS underway through high level of state intervention
	Japan	y	y	y	y	dev.	y	Lack of local storage and very large industrial sector means international cooperation is fundamental
	South Korea	y	y	y	y	dev.	y	Lack of local storage and very large industrial sector means international cooperation is fundamental
	Malaysia	y	y	y	y	dev.	dev.	Emerging as the prime storage location for CO ₂ from Korea and Japan as well as domestic emissions through NOC.
	Indonesia	y	y	y	y	dev.	y	Large emphasis on CCUS for domestic decarbonisation through NOC
N. AMERICA	USA	(y)	y	n	y	n	(y)	Even under Trump Administration 45Q tax credits are still in place in 2026. EOR also key enabler.
	Canada	y	y	y	y	y	(y)	Federal investment tax credits and provincial "carbon contracts" work in tandem. Focus has shifted to deployment of massive industrial hubs in Alberta and Saskatchewan.
MIDDLE EAST	Saudi Arabia	y	y	y	(y)	dev.	y	Saudi Aramco (NOC) is leading CCUS with injection target of 44Mtpa by 2035
	Qatar	y	y	y	n	n	y	Qatar Energy (NOC) is leading CCUS with injection target of 11Mtpa by 2035

Table 2: Fiscal Policy Options for CCUS by Country



Key Outcomes

National

Multi-year, multi-user CCUS hub development requires progress on four foundational national policy elements.



Strategic Policy Development

1. A State and National CCUS Strategy / Roadmap.
2. A fit-for-purpose Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) which will require updates to the Safeguard Mechanism.
3. A Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

These elements do not require direct government fiscal support but create the conditions necessary for a multi-user hub.



Fiscal Policy Development

4. Finally, necessary investment will require a government backed fiscal policy (e.g. financing, tax credit, state owned entity). A UK style Carbon Contracts for Difference (CCfD) framework is the most appropriate for Australia.

Western Australia

The Western Australia CCUS Action Plan provides an important starting point, and workshop sponsorship demonstrates government openness to stakeholder input. Two priority actions for Western Australia are:



Strategic Policy

1. Build the existing CCUS Action Plan aspiration into a ready-to-implement framework with enforceable milestones and defined delivery targets.



Low Emission Hub

2. Commission updates / new work for Kwinana, the Mid West, and the Pilbara. CCUS Concept Studies can link to a statewide Low Emission Hub Master Plan.

Delegates stressed that a state-funded assessment is vital to provide a shared understanding of multi-user hub scale, costs, and design. This work provides an immediate framework for government and industry while broader policy and community coordination issues are addressed.



Possible Steps to Delivery of CCUS Hubs in WA

To meet legislated 2035 emissions targets, concurrent actions are required across both State and Commonwealth responsibilities. Delegates identified practical steps to initiate CCUS hub development in Western Australia. Not acting now means accepting that CCUS will not scale through a Western Australia based hub by 2035. Figure 3 summarises these concurrent activities.

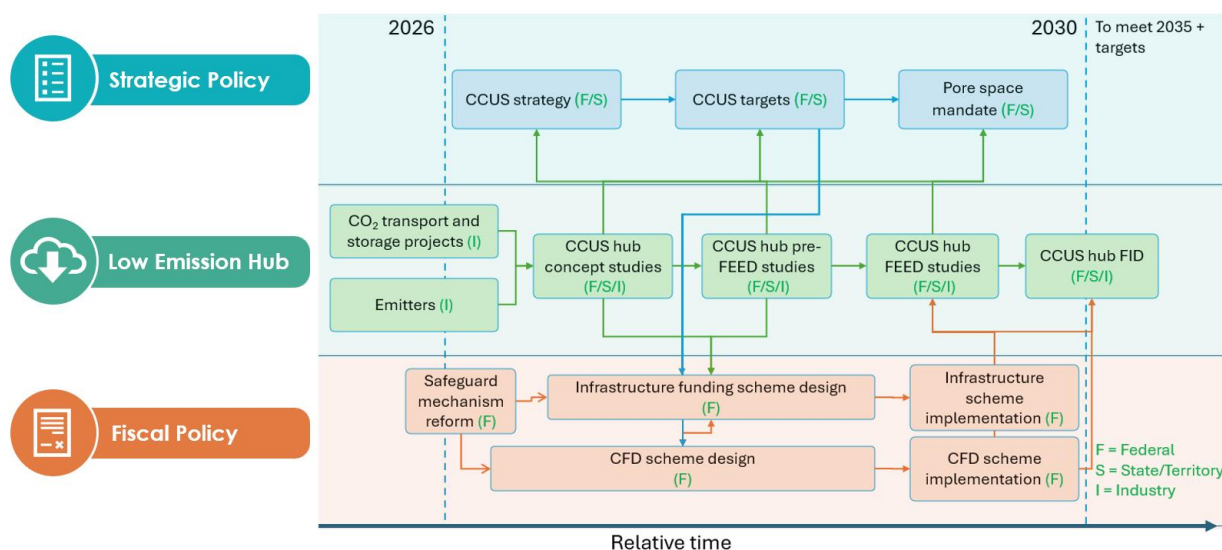


Figure 3: Concurrent activities suggested by workshop delegates to achieve a multi-user CCUS Hub in Western Australia.

Project Sponsors

Acknowledgement is extended to the sponsors of this project.

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Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage Network Australia (CCUSNA)

CCUSNA is a member organisation supporting the capture, transport, utilisation and geological storage of CO₂ as part of Australia's decarbonisation pathway. CCUSNA provides informed advice to industry, government and the community, without promoting individual projects or favouring specific CO₂ sources.

Membership is open to emitters, capture specialists, engineering firms, utilisation and storage companies, pipeline and shipping operators, academia, research organisations and government bodies. CCUSNA aims to foster collaboration and innovation across Australia's CCUS value chain.

WA CCUS Hubs Workshop Full Report Available

The Full Report is available at ccusna.com.au





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