

# MEDIA RELEASE



24<sup>th</sup> February, 2012

## **MBD Energy Limited welcomes new \$11m macro algae fuel project**

Leading Australian industrial waste emissions innovator, MBD Energy Limited, today welcomed the Australian Government's announcement of a \$5 million grant to James Cook University to help develop a macro algae to bio-crude oil project. The project will also leverage a further \$6 million from MBD Energy Limited and the Advanced Manufacturing Cooperative Research Centre, taking total funding to around \$11 million.

Visiting the MBD Energy Limited pilot facility at JCU today, the Federal Minister for Resources and Energy, Martin Ferguson AM MP said advanced biofuels have the potential to play a role in diversifying Australia's liquid fuel sources while reducing carbon emissions.

MBD Energy Limited Managing Director, Andrew Lawson, said macro algae offer exceptional opportunities for the supply of biomass feedstock for the production of biocrude likely to be well suited to refining a comprehensive range of conventional transport fuels.

"Macro algae are extremely fast growing and don't compete with food crops for use of arable land and, as they grow, macro algae capture carbon dioxide. They can also help remediate heavy metals and nutrient contaminated industrial waste water such as that found in ash dams at power stations.

"We believe that macro algae present an attractive feedstock for carbon capture and recycling based bio-crude production to enable sustainable downstream production of mainstream fuels," Mr Lawson said.

The initial focus of the project is upon delivery of R&D underpinning optimised biomass productivity and critically, biomass organic yields for biocrude production using hydrothermal processes.

A second stage of the program will enable MBD Energy Limited to demonstrate commercial scale production and processing of macro algal biomass and provide the blueprint to support and implement cost-effective, large-scale macro algal production and for its development as a viable feedstock.

Mr Lawson said MBD Energy is committed to providing leadership in sustainable emissions reduction and commodities production. "Our focus is on developing systems designed to allow algal biomass to be grown at a commercial scale, effectively recycling waste emissions into useful supply chain commodities", he said.

The macro algae project R&D leaders, Professor Rocky de Nys and Dr Nicholas Paul from James Cook University, bring a strong background in algal biology and chemistry and biomass production and related key research spanning more than 35 years.

Professors Thomas Maschmeyer and Brian Haynes from University of Sydney, together covering more than 30 years in the chemical process engineering and hydrothermal conversion space, will lead the biocrude research. MBD's Scott Grierson and his team will provide engineering expertise for the projects.

### **Media enquiries:**

Jackie Holt Maxicom Public Relations Phone: (02) 99659300

Peter Cassuben Communications Director Mobile: 0417 980 009