



**Australian Earth Sciences Convention  
Media release – Monday 21 July 2008**

## **Experts gather at global mega-conference to consider everything from tsunami risk and salinity to climate change and future energy generation**

### **Australian Earth Sciences Convention, 20-24 July, Perth**

**Up to 1000 geoscience experts from across the globe are convening at an international Earth Sciences mega-conference in Perth this week to discuss the latest research on major challenges affecting Australia and life on Earth.**

The 2008 Australian Earth Sciences Convention runs from Sunday 20 to Thursday 24 July 2008 and is hosted by the Geological Society of Australia and the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. It is featuring more than 135 Australian and international presenters, 450 papers and a wide-ranging program of workshops and field trips.

“This major international conference is considered a must-attend event for leading geoscientists from across the world and many others from industry, government, research and academia” said Dr Jon Hronsky, the Convention’s Program Director and Director of the consulting group Western Mining Services.

“Its cutting-edge program is considering everything from Australia’s future energy mix to what parts of Australia (and what infrastructure assets) are most likely to be affected by tsunamis, from groundwater exploration in Australia to groundwater contamination in the Himalayas, from climate change to food traceability and salinity.

“The conference is also focusing on a diverse range of other topics including asteroids and their impact with Earth, the geological history and future of Earth and the Solar System, marine eco-systems, major fossil finds and what they can tell us, mass extinctions, how recent missions to Mars can help us better understand the Earth, international hydrocarbon prospects, geo-tourism and even the geochemistry of termite mounds!

“In focusing on critical topics such as tsunami and earthquake risks, climate change, carbon sequestration, clean coal technologies, water contamination, water exploration, salinity, uranium deposits and their production in a global context, and alternative energy sources like geothermal energy, this conference really sets the agenda for scientific thinking on some of the biggest issues being faced by Australia and indeed the planet.

“Australia is recognised as a world-leader in geoscientific research, a critical area of research when you consider it covers many of the issues that pose the greatest threat to mankind and quality of life – resource depletion, geohazards like earthquakes and tsunamis, global warming, environmental degradation, risks to food production, and food and water safety.

“In bringing together all the diverse areas of geoscience under one roof, the Australian Earth Sciences Convention is a critical international forum for highlighting the latest research on these and many other issues.”

**Effectively several major conferences wrapped into one, the Convention boasts five key streams:**

- Geoscience in the service of society
- Resources – foundation for our future
- The evolution of life and the solar system
- Earth’s environments – past, present and future
- The dynamic Earth – from crust to core

With the Convention being held in Perth for the first time since 1994, there is also a strong focus on mineral exploration, new technologies and potential discoveries in Western Australia, Australia and internationally, at a time when the resources sector in Australia is booming. Just some of the many topics focusing on WA include:

- frontier exploration areas onshore and offshore WA
- WA’s pre-competitive geoscience program – underpinning exploration
- the re-interpretation of old mining camps leading to surprising new discoveries
- case studies of many minerals discoveries and provinces in WA

The Convention program will also look at the business end of exploration, such as:

- the psychology of decision-making in exploration – improving return on investment
- cutting-edge technologies in resource imaging and exploration
- Australian junior exploration floats and their implications for IPOs
- initiatives to attract exploration investment
- multiple papers on mining company exploration strategies

“For many geoscientists, the 2008 Australian Earth Sciences Convention is one they can’t afford to miss” Dr Hronsky said. “Put simply, it’s a critical conference on the global geoscience calendar, and one highlighting the big issues that could have a huge impact on life on Earth.”

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**Dr Jon Hronsky, other Australian Earth Sciences Convention representatives and various Convention speakers are available for interview. Interviews are available each day from 4am Perth time (6am Eastern) Sunday to Thursday.**

**What:** 2008 Australian Earth Sciences Convention  
**When:** Sunday 20 - Thursday 24 July 2008 (main program commences on Monday 21 July)  
**Where:** Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre, Perth  
**Contact:** Patrick Daley (Patrick Daley Public Relations) on 0408 004 890

Find the full program at [www.iceaustralia.com/aesc2008](http://www.iceaustralia.com/aesc2008). Media can access suggested speaker and topic lists (organised into subject headings and state-specific headings), as well as other background material, [on the Media page of the website](#) (abstracts are available from Patrick Daley).

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**Convention sponsors:** the Diamond Sponsor of the 2008 Australian Earth Sciences Convention is Rio Tinto. Other major sponsors are Norilsk Nickel, Gold Fields, CSIRO Exploration and Mining, Integra Mining, Curtin University of Technology, the University of Western Australia, Australian Journal of Earth Sciences, AngloGold Ashanti Australia, the Geological Survey of Western Australia, Geoconferences WA Inc., Gnomonic Exploration Services PL, Chevron and Geoscience Australia. The major sponsor of an associated Student Careers Night is Independence Group NL and the Convention’s Media Sponsor is the Resource Information Unit.