



**Australian Earth Sciences Convention
Media advisory for Monday 21 July 2008**

Australian Earth Sciences Convention Highlights day 1 – Monday

Australian Earth Sciences Convention, 20-24 July, Perth

- 9:00am **Conference opening** by Professor Lyn Beazley, Chief Scientist of Western Australia
- 9:40am **Plenary session 1 – Mawson Lecture**
Making Mountains: Geological drivers and environmental consequences
Prof. Peter Cawood, University of Western Australia and Mawson Medal recipient 2008

Interviews and picture opportunities

- General interviews on the Convention's first day, and the gathering of up to 1000 geoscientists to discuss critical issues impacting on life on Earth, are available all day
- Vision of up to 1000 geoscientists attending the Convention is available. Vision of the Convention's Exhibition is also available.

Sessions day 1

Exploration strategies and technologies (Resources stream)

Topics will include: breakthroughs in resource exploration ■ stimulating greenfields mineral exploration ■ geochemistry and mineralogy of termite mounds ■ technology, innovation and the boom ■ how effectively are new concepts driving exploration outcomes?

Evidence for early life (Evolution of life and the Solar System stream)

Topics will include: the quest for perfection – biogenicity and the early fossil record ■ microfossils and indications of cell division ■ early signs of life

Being smarter with our data / prospectivity analysis (Resources stream)

Topics will include: the art and science of data analysis ■ Australian junior exploration floats 2001–2006 and their implications for IPOs

Groundwater (Geoscience in the service of society stream)

Topics will include: looking for mine water supply in areas of limited water allocation ■ petroleum hydrogeology application to groundwater management ■ groundwater - an agent of geology in land and water salinisation in the southwest of Western Australia ■ dryland salinity and geodiversity on the Southern Tablelands of NSW: the use of the EM (and AEM) techniques for mapping and management?

Pre-competitive geoscience information, window into the future (Resources stream)

Topics will include: Minerals Down Under National Research Flagship ■ securing Australia's future wealth – the role of precompetitive geoscience and Geoscience Australia's program ■ the impact of government pre-competitive geoscience data on mineral exploration in WA ■ exploration initiatives in various states.

Orogens and basins, indicators of continental progress (Dynamic Earth stream)

Topics will include: explaining the formation of the Andes ■ geodynamics and basin evolution

Archean processes and crustal evolution (Dynamic Earth stream)

Science media: please read the full Convention program at www.iceaustralia.com/aesc2008 for the day's program for this stream

Tectonics, the Landscape & Regolith Evolution 1 (Dynamic Earth stream)

Topics will include: the tilting continent and other geomorphic signals of mantle flow beneath Australia ■ the Top Down paradigm – do plants control groundwater and weathering in semi-arid Australia?

The geology of Australia's Offshore areas (Earth's environments stream)

Topics will include: Australia and the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) ■ Drowned reefs in the Great Barrier Reef and Hawaii — a new era in IODP coral reef drilling ■ two New IODP paleoceanographic drilling opportunities in the Timor Sea ■ Mass wasting along the East Australian Continental Slope ■ Capel and Faust basins — geoscientific assessment of an offshore frontier region

Palaeo-environments (Earth's environments stream)

Topics will include: ancient analogues for CO2 sequestration in coal measures, Gunnedah and Bowen Basins, Australia ■ age and stratigraphic constraints on the evolution of mega-lake Bungunna: insights into Plio-Pleistocene climate change in southern Australia ■ milestones in the evolution of the atmosphere with reference to climate change

Various Convention speakers and Australian Earth Sciences Convention representatives are available for interview.

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 Convention program at 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).

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, the Australian Journal of Earth Sciences, AngloGold Ashanti Australia, the Geological Survey of Western Australia, Geoconferences WA Inc., Gnomic 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.