



**Australian Earth Sciences Convention
Media release – Tuesday 22 July 2008**

Perth students to dig up crucial information at geoscience careers expo

More than 100 secondary school and university students from across Perth will attend a careers expo at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre tonight (Tuesday) to talk with geoscience professionals about study and employment opportunities in the geosciences sector, at a time when the resources sector in Western Australia is booming.

The 2008 Student Careers Evening is an adjunct to the Australian Earth Sciences Convention 2008, a major international geosciences conference which is being held this week (Sunday to Thursday) in Perth.

The careers evening is an annual event organised by the Australian Institute of Geoscientists, Geological Society of Australia, Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia, and Australian Society of Exploration Geologists. A number of resources companies are supporting the expo, with Independence Group NL being the Principal Sponsor.

“Geoscience is a very large church, encompassing everything from electron microscopy, 3D computer modelling, mining and energy resources, and planetary exploration – with a lot in between” says Marcus Harris, Federal Councillor of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG) and an organiser of the expo.

“In Western Australia, studies in geoscience can lead to exceptional opportunities in the energy and resources sector, as graduates from this field are in very high demand, particularly during resource booms like the one we are experiencing at the moment.

“Through our Student Careers Evening, we can brief interested students on what a career in geoscience entails, the excellent opportunities it can offer, the wide variety of areas in which geoscience graduates can work, and what tertiary study is required for a career in geoscience.”

Those attending tonight’s expo include students from Perth’s high schools and universities, as well as lecturers and teachers. They will hear presentations from research geoscientists and other geoscientists representing the petroleum, mining and groundwater industries.

“They will also have the opportunity to meet with these geoscientists face-to-face to discuss employment opportunities in the sector.

“Many students only see a career in geoscience as involving walking around a paddock with a shovel picking up soil samples, but the opportunities available to a geoscience graduate are much, much wider than that” says Bree Goff, a petroleum geologist with Chevron Australia.

“For example, at this weeks’ Australian Earth Sciences Convention, we have geoscientists who are involved in salinity management, the development of clean energy sources, tsunami and earthquake preparedness, food security and astronomy, as well as energy and minerals exploration and development –

plus many other fields. Expos like the one being held tonight are an important way of getting this key message out there.”

The careers evening will be held from 6:30pm to 8:30pm Tuesday night. All places have been filled.

AIG immediate past-President and a member of the Australian Earth Sciences Convention's organising committee, Rick Rogerson, is available for interview.

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