



2008 Australian Earth Sciences Convention

New generation advances in geoscience

20-24 July 2008, Perth

www.iceaustralia.com/aesc2008

Resources stream program: www.iceaustralia.com/aesc2008/pdf/Program_Resources.pdf

Mega-conference on earth sciences a must-attend for resource sector

With a major focus on exploration, new technologies and potential discoveries in Australia and across the globe, the 2008 Australian Earth Sciences Convention is being hailed as a must-attend international event for mining and energy sector geologists, explorers, executives and investors.

The mega-conference—*New generation advances in geoscience*—will be held in Perth from 20 to 24 July 2008. Hosted by the Geological Society of Australia and the Australian Institute of Geoscientists, it is expected to attract over 1000 delegates and will feature more than 135 Australian and international presenters, 450 papers and a wide-ranging program of workshops and field trips.

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

- 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

The stream *Resources: foundation for our future* will cover a huge range of mining and energy-related topics including:

- cutting-edge exploration technologies
- new discoveries and prospects, including the raft of new minerals and hydrocarbon exploration opportunities in WA, Australia, New Zealand, PNG and other countries
- the psychology of decision-making in mineral exploration as a key to improving return on investment
- Australian junior exploration floats and their implications for IPOs
- initiatives to attract exploration investment
- greenfields prospectivity analysis

- being smarter with data
- long-term mineral exploration and development planning as a key to reducing risk
- mineral exploration's new frontier – the ocean floor
- developments in resource imaging
- the reinterpretation of old mining camps leading to surprising new discoveries
- mining company exploration strategies
- pre-competitive geoscience by government agencies
- CSIRO's multi-million dollar Minerals Down Under research flagship, which aims to assist the Australian minerals industry to realise up to \$1 trillion worth of new resources through cutting-edge research in exploration, mining and processing.
- Geoscience Australia's energy security programs which aim to encourage and support exploration for hydrocarbons and other energy resources onshore and offshore Australia, including through the provision of reliable geoscientific data and scientifically-based assessments.

Speakers include:

- Chief Geologist from Fortescue Metals, Stewart Robinson, who will speak about creating shareholder value from exploration
- the Managing Director of Integra Mining, Chris Cairns, who will speak on that company's exploration strategy and gold discoveries
- representatives from major resource companies including Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton, ConocoPhillips and Anglo

The unique thing about the Convention is that it will bring the commercial and research arms of the resources sector under one roof. Many of the Convention's presenters will consider cutting-edge geoscientific research and exploration technology firmly within the context of what it means for commercially successful exploration and development outcomes.

And with the Convention being held in Perth, multiple papers will focus on mineral and energy exploration, new technologies and potential discoveries in Western Australia itself. Just some of the WA-specific topics being covered at the Convention include:

- WA's pre-competitive geoscience program – underpinning exploration
- evaluating the geology and petroleum prospectivity of frontier exploration areas within the offshore north Perth Basin
- the Flying Fox Nickel Deposit, Forrestania Greenstone Belt, WA
- the Canning Basin's oil and gas potential
- the Tropicana Deposit: a new gold province in WA
- using numerical modelling to target undiscovered gold in a brownfields environment (an example from Tarmoola in WA)

This year's conference will also look at the big policy issues impacting on the resources sector, including Australia's future energy mix, global warming, clean coal technology, carbon sequestration, geothermal energy, and uranium production in a global context.

Just some of the many other topics to be featured at the Convention include Australia's future energy mix, geothermal energy, carbon sequestration, clean coal technology, climate change, asteroid impacts, Australian infrastructure assets most likely to be affected by tsunamis (and what is being done to mitigate this risk), groundwater exploration in Australia, groundwater contamination in the Himalayas and the United States, food traceability, salinity, geo-tourism, the formation of Earth and the solar system, and marine eco-systems.

- The Convention's resources stream program can be viewed at www.iceaustralia.com/aesc2008/pdf/Program_Resources.pdf
- Visit www.iceaustralia.com/aesc2008 to see the full Convention program. A brief summary of the program can be found in the Media section of the website.
- Day registrations are also available at the Convention, as well as the full Convention passes.