

Media Release
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**ROLE OF GEOSCIENTISTS IN AUSTRALASIAN-PACIFIC REGION TO BE
CENTREPIECE OF INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT IN ADELAIDE IN OCTOBER**

Just how experienced geoscientists can better contribute to the development of the Australasian-Pacific region is to be a centrepiece of an international summit to be held in Australia later this year.

The forum will be the inaugural convention of the Australia Geoscience Council which will meet for five days in Adelaide during Earth Science Week between 14-18 October.

The Council is one of the foremost Geoscience advocacy groups in the Australasian-Pacific footprint and as such, has made the development of the region one of four key issues to confront industry, government and community-based delegates on a specifically focused *Big Issues and Ideas Day* on Tuesday 16 October.

“Our objective is to use the *Big Issues and Ideas Day* to focus on how Geoscience’s interaction with communities throughout Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific can deliver better outcomes for society,” Convention Chairman, Dr Bill Shaw, said today.

“Among our biggest areas of focus are regional development, energy security, generation and feedstocks, unwelcome boom and bust cycles in our various mining sectors and the need for better Geoscience education and communication,” Dr Shaw said.

“We are hopeful that by elevating these issues to summit-level discussions during the Convention, that we can evolve strategies that can be taken to respective governments and regional bodies across the Australasian-Pacific, to become policy,” he said.

“The Convention is attracting some of the foremost speakers and convenors across these issues and we are confident the outcomes are likely to generate formal communiques to make government, industry and the community sit up and take notice.”

More than 2,000 delegates are expected in Adelaide over the five day forum. Headline speakers include an address by renowned US academic, Professor Matthew Huber from the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences at Purdue University, Indiana.

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Main plenary sessions will address major issues currently impacting Geoscience, including the Earth's past and future climate; life origins and evolution; future resource security; geohazard risk and mitigation; and the future role of Geoscience in our society.

The scientific program's five themes and 55 sub-themes will focus on Geoscience topics across the key disciplines of mining, energy, engineering, environment and other related resource development skillsets.

Big Issues and Ideas in Geoscience

The Convention's *Big Issues and Ideas* day is designed to highlight the fundamental role that Geoscience has as a major field of science throughout the Australasian-Pacific region, Dr Shaw said.

"It is Geoscience that delivers the maps that support decision making, GPS positioning on people's mobile phones, through to environmental monitoring and understanding the nation's resource wealth," he said.

"The Convention is not just about an opportunity to discuss scientific developments and emerging technologies, but new approaches to education and communication," he said.

All eight members of the Council are backing the Convention, sponsored by Geoscience Australia. The members are themselves leading Geoscience industry groups and organisations in the region, representing the interests of more than 8,000 professionals.

For more information, visit www.agcc.org.au.

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ABOUT THE AGC

The Australian Geoscience Council (AGC) is the Peak Council of geoscientists in Australia. It represents eight major Australian geoscientific societies with a total membership of over 8,000 individuals comprising industry, government and academic professionals in the fields of geology, geophysics, geochemistry, mineral and petroleum exploration, environmental Geoscience, hydrogeology and geological hazards.

Their objective is to:

- Provide expert apolitical advice to governments on matters involving the Geosciences and their application;
- Promote the development of scientifically sound policies for effective Geoscience education and research; and
- Provide the Australian public with a greater appreciation of the economic, environmental and cultural values of the Geosciences.

The AGC comprises:

- Association of Applied Geochemists – Australian Branch (AAG)
- Australian Geoscience Information Association (AGIA)
- Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG)
- Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (ASEG)
- Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM)
- Geological Society of Australia (GSA)
- International Association of Hydrogeologists Australia (IAH)
- Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia (PESA)