

2016 INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON DERELICT MINES

# Dealing with Derelict Mines

6-8 December 2016, Singleton NSW



## New risk-based management approaches to dealing with problems, issues and policy challenges

**6-8 December 2016**, Singleton Diggers, York Street, Singleton NSW 2330  
(welcome reception on the evening of 6 December followed by two full days)

[www.crccare.com/derelictmines2016](http://www.crccare.com/derelictmines2016)

The Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (CRC CARE), the University of Newcastle's Global Centre for Environmental Remediation (GCER), and the NSW Department of Industry invite you to join experts and practitioners from around the world to attend the International Summit on Derelict Mines.

This much-needed event includes:

- Presentations by some of the world's foremost experts in derelict mine management
- Poster presentations from leading researchers
- Expert thematic workshops.

*Dealing with Derelict Mines 2016* is the inaugural summit on derelict mines. It will attract to NSW a unique and international mix of experts, researchers and decision-makers from both academia and industry to exchange their knowledge, experience and research innovations. These experts will have the opportunity to engage with industry and environmental regulators – positioning NSW and Australia at the very forefront of this vital issue.

### Derelict mines

There are over 50,000 derelict mines in Australia, which are largely the legacy of a time when environmental legislation was either non-existent or in its infancy. This summit will encourage participants to explore how to implement a more economically sustainable, risk-based management approach to dealing with mining contamination.

The mineral industry contributes approximately \$12.5 billion to the NSW economy, which equates to \$3.2 million per square kilometre of area covered by mining activities. However, this has come at a potentially high cost to environmental and human health. While current State legislation provides for the rehabilitation of existing and future mines, many disused mines were closed at a time of limited or no legislation requiring rehabilitation. Despite their environmental cost, no individual or organisation is held responsible for their management.

Derelict mines pose potential risks to human and environmental health. The summit will examine the nature of derelict mines, short- and long-term risks to sensitive receptors, tools for monitoring and prioritising risks, and technological advances for rehabilitation. The event will also focus on guidance for and policies on managing derelict mines in Australia.

The NSW Government has identified nearly 600 derelict mine sites in NSW, only a small fraction of which have been rehabilitated. Comprehensive rehabilitation is one of the most challenging problems confronting not just NSW but also Australia and the rest of the world. The cost of remediating derelict mine sites using current approaches and technologies is prohibitively high; as a result many remain untreated and a threat to human health, the environment and agriculture.

*A safer, cleaner environmental future*

## Co-hosts and major sponsors



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**NEWCASTLE**  
AUSTRALIA



Department  
of Industry

### Registration fees

- Early bird (until 30/9/2016):  
**\$450 (ex. GST)**
- Standard (1/10/2016 to 30/11/2016):  
**\$500 (ex. GST)**
- Late / on the spot (after 30/11/2016):  
**\$550 (ex. GST)**
- Students:  
**\$200 (ex. GST)**

Register via  
[www.crccare.com/derelictmines2016](http://www.crccare.com/derelictmines2016)

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## Risk-based approach

Most technologies and policies that have been trialled for rehabilitation are based on legislation that considers total contaminant content rather than the contaminant fraction that actually poses risk to sensitive receptors (humans, animals, plants, microbes). A risk-based approach would substantially lower the cost of remediation without compromising human and environmental health. While such an approach has been accepted by regulators for the management and/or remediation of other types of contaminated sites, it has not yet been applied to derelict mines.

*Dealing with Derelict Mines 2016* will provide a forum for scientists, geologists, early-career researchers, engineers and rehabilitation experts from all over the world to get together and exchange ideas and research results. The event will include well-organised workshops, symposia, poster presentations, panel discussions, interactive sessions and collaborative research opportunities.

## Summit hosts

**CRC CARE** is a global leader in risk-based remediation. Headquartered at the University of Newcastle, it carries out international collaboration with globally recognised experts from other leading organisations around the world, including Kansas State University (USA), Nottingham University (UK), Wageningen University (Netherlands) and the Spanish National research Council. CRC CARE has a track record of delivering world-class conferences and workshops, including the highly regarded biennial International Contaminated Site Remediation Conference (known as the CleanUp series), which attracts around 700 delegates including more than 100 from overseas.

The **Global Centre for Environmental Remediation** is a leading proponent of risk-based approaches to the clean-up or management of contaminated sites. Based at the **University of Newcastle**, the Centre aims to safeguard people's social, economic and physical health and wellbeing by developing innovative, cost-effective and sustainable technologies and solutions that reduce the impact of pollutants on the environment.

The **NSW Department of Industry** (DRE) is represented at the summit by the **Division of Resources & Energy** and the **Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer**. DRE works to secure, regulate and deliver NSW's energy and mineral resource base, and delivers policy, programs and compliance for the NSW Government across the minerals and energy sector. The division plays a key role in delivering the NSW Government's priorities for economic growth by working to develop thriving resources and energy sectors in NSW. The NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer fosters a lively state innovation system particularly by promoting productive links between business, the professions, universities and government, and provides independent advice on how to address policy problems that involve engineering or science.

## Why attend?

*Dealing with Derelict Mines 2016* will be the leading forum for recent advances in mine rehabilitation and associated policy formulation and adoption. It will promote the science that underpins a risk-based approach to rehabilitation of derelict mines and via interactive forums identify the major constraints to effective remediation of such sites.

This summit presents an opportunity to put your organisation at the forefront of best practice in dealing with derelict mine sites. It offers a more economically sustainable approach that does not compromise human and environmental health. *Dealing with Derelict Mines 2016* provides a way forward for dealing with the legacy of our mining past.

## Who should attend?

Policy- and law-makers, mine and land owners, contamination consultants, geologists, researchers and academics.

## More information

To find out more about the event, visit [www.crccare.com/derelictmines2016](http://www.crccare.com/derelictmines2016) or contact Dr Peter Sanderson on +61 2 4913 8731 or [peter.sanderson@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:peter.sanderson@newcastle.edu.au).

## Major oral and poster presentation themes

- Building a national inventory of derelict mines in Australia
- Managing derelict mines
- Understanding community perspectives
- Remediation, assessment and predictive tools for managing pit lakes
- Setting standards and regulatory measures/policies relating to mine closure
- Ownership and liability issues
- Risk-based management of derelict mines
- Implications of climate change and extreme weather events on managing/rehabilitating derelict mines

## Major round-table discussion themes

- Problems, issues and options
- Criteria for prioritising remediation efforts
- Responsibility and costs
- Risk-based approach – regulator and scientific perspectives
- Deriving value from old tailings
- Developing structures and entities to drive forward a new agenda
- Identifying funding models



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