Aquifers, Aquitards & Mining

Workshop on Aquifers, Aquitards & Mining

27-28 March 2014 - UNSW Australia
National Centre for Groundwater Research & Training

Funded by Australian government
July 2009 – June 2014

Flinders Uni + UNSW + ANU + UQ + many partners including NSW Dept. Industry and Investment, Geoscience Australia

Five Research Programs:
1. Innovative Characterisation of Aquifers and Aquitards
2. Hydrodynamics and Modelling of Complex Groundwater Systems
3. Surface Water - Groundwater Interactions
4. Groundwater-Vegetation-Atmosphere Interactions (GVI)
5. Integrating Socioeconomics, Policy and Decision Support
NCGRT Program 1: Innovative Characterisation of Aquifers and Aquitards

Subprogram 1A: Linking Geological and Hydrogeological Processes.

Subprogram 1B: Characterising Aquitards.
8 staff trained, 16 Honours students, 7 summer scholars

Subprogram 1C: Heat as a groundwater tracer.

Subprogram 1D: Characterising Fractured Rock Aquifer Systems
The Australian Centre for Sustainable Mining Practices (ACSMP)

ACSMP aspires to be recognised by both government and industry in Australia and internationally as:

- A leading authority on sustainable mining practices
- A provider and developer of innovative educational resources
- An active research organisation focused on sustainable mining initiatives

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• Carry out mining-related **research** to benefit the environment and society
• Deliver mining-related **education** of benefit to the environment and society
• **Work with stakeholders** including mining companies, governments, agricultural sector, the green movement, Indigenous organisations, union movement
• **Provide scientific, technical and policy advice** to stakeholders
A NCGRT commissioned report* from Deloitte Access Economics shows the value of groundwater in Australia:

- **Our cities use 303,000 ML** (megalitres) of groundwater a year

- **Mining uses 410,000 ML**, and groundwater underpins mining production of **$24.5 billion each year**

- **Agriculture typically uses about 2,000,000 ML** (or 2 gigalitres, GL) of groundwater each year, mainly for irrigation and livestock, and groundwater underpins **$4.7 billion of production.**
