



Global  
Resources  
Innovation  
Expo



20 - 22 May 2025  
Brisbane | Australia

Embracing a New Era

# Post-Event Report



## AUSTMINE

Austmine is the leading industry association representing the Mining Equipment, Technology and Services (METS) sector, with over 780 corporate members dedicated to driving innovation and technological advancement within the industry. Our commitment is to foster collaboration, innovation, and sustainable practices that enhance the global mining landscape.

Austmine's mission is to champion the METS sector by connecting members with opportunities for growth, playing a pivotal role in driving the future of mining through technological advancements and strategic partnerships.

At the Global Resources Innovation Expo (GRX), Austmine is dedicated to showcasing the strengths and capabilities of the METS sector. We highlight how METS companies are driving innovation and sustainability in mining, demonstrating Australia's leadership in these critical areas.

We encourage you to join Austmine and become part of a dynamic community that is shaping the future of the mining sector through collaboration and innovation.



## AusIMM

AusIMM is the peak body and trusted voice for professionals in the resources sector. We advance careers, inspire leadership, uphold standards and connect communities.

AusIMM was named 2024 Association of the Year for its impact on the global resources sector by providing world-class professional development and connection for our members and resources professionals.

Founded in 1893 and operating under a Royal Charter, AusIMM has a global community of members, branches and societies, along with influential partnerships with industry, government, education and the community.

Through GRX, AusIMM and Austmine have embarked on a transformative journey to create a groundbreaking, industry-owned international event. Our shared vision is for GRX to unite the METS sector, mining companies, and leading professionals from around the world to harness the innovative thinking required to advance our industry as we boldly step into an exciting new era.

# Global Resources Innovation Expo

**GRX**  
**25**

The Global Resources Innovation Expo (GRX) is a strategic collaboration between leading peak bodies Austmine and AusIMM, and marks the beginning of a new chapter for Australia's mining innovation landscape. Developed as the evolution of the Austmine Conference, GRX25 reflects the changing needs of our industry - and the growing importance of collaboration across the mining and METS sector.

GRX25 brought together over 1,300 delegates, 120 exhibitors, and speakers from across the globe for three days of conversation, connection and opportunity.

With the theme "Embracing a New Era", GRX25 explored how the resources sector is responding to critical challenges - from decarbonisation and digital transformation to workforce change and supply chain resilience. Through keynote presentations, panel discussions, and interactive workshops, the program highlighted how new thinking, technologies and strategies are shaping the next phase of the industry.

This industry-led conference hosted in partnership by Austmine and AusIMM reflects a shared commitment to building a stronger, more innovative and sustainable future for the sector. We thank all our partners, sponsors, exhibitors and delegates for supporting us at the inaugural GRX25 in Brisbane.



## Conference Themes

### ➤ Embracing a New Era

We introduced new thinking, strategies and technologies taking our sector forward, and delved into how mining has a pivotal role to play in shaping a dynamic and bold future.

### ➤ Pioneering Change Across the Globe

We explored how different regions are advancing sustainability, addressing societal challenges and driving progress in a responsible manner through the application of innovative approaches and transformative technologies.

### ➤ Trailblazing Technologies

We demonstrated the importance of innovation as a strategic imperative and showcased a range of new technologies to drive growth, profitability and change.

### ➤ Shattering the Boundaries

We challenged current business models, highlighting that collaboration is essential, demonstrated through case studies where unconventional thinking has led to significant technological breakthroughs, operational efficiencies and sustainability improvements.

### ➤ Paving the Way to Our Bold Future

We charted where our industry is headed, and discussed ambitious goals for a transformative future, from advancements in technology to attracting the next generation, and explored how we navigate today's complexities in order to lead a sustainable future.

# Audience Insights



**1,300**  
Delegates

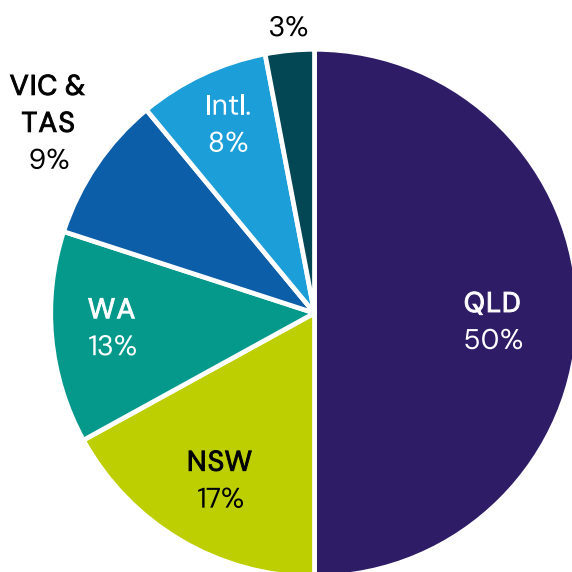


**120**  
Exhibitors &  
Sponsors

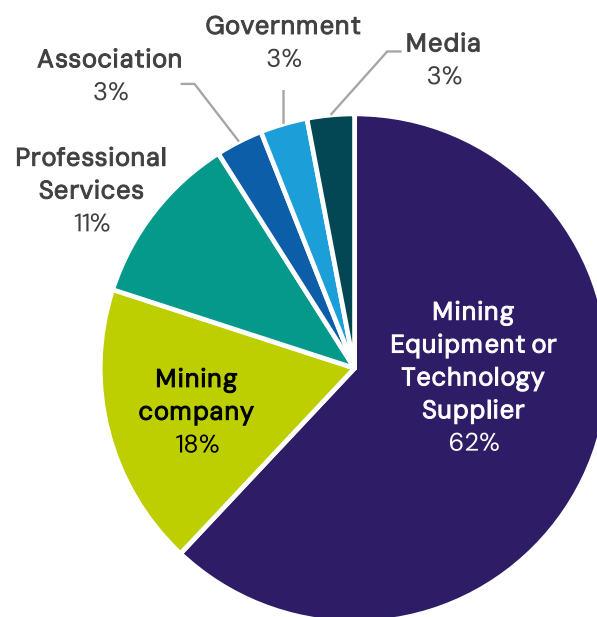


**700**  
Dinner  
Guests

## By Location



## By Industry



## By Job Function

By Job Function	
CEO / COO / CTO / Board Director	9%
Owner / Managing Director	13%
General Management	10%
Senior Management	11%
Engineering	6.5%
Marketing	5%
Operations	2.5%
Research & Development	2%
Sales & Business Development	23%
Technology & Innovation	9%
Other	8.5%

## Testimonials

"Great to see big organisations, innovators and smaller players all mixing and engaging. Good spectrum of speakers and topics."

"I really enjoyed the format of the event - it enabled me to understand both what challenges the miners are currently trying to navigate, while also learning more about the latest METS technologies available."

"The Accenture Innovation Zone was fantastic as it delivered a range of stakeholders to a central hub and allowed early-stage companies to participate."

# Speaker Highlights



**Adam Lancey**  
Asset President  
**BMA**

## Mining for Innovation: Powering the Industry Forward

In a powerful opening keynote, Adam Lancey reflected on the rapid acceleration of technology and its impact on the mining sector. He acknowledged that while emerging technologies are highly adaptable to mining, implementation is rarely straightforward.

“The demand for BHP’s portfolio of resources – copper, iron ore and potash – is not going away, and neither is the demand for BMA’s steel-making coal. But we need to work faster and smarter if we’re going to bridge future supply gaps.”

He emphasised the need to better connect problems with solutions, and shared an optimistic vision for the industry:

“I believe that we are on the cusp of a new era in mining. A new era where mines are safer and more efficient than we can imagine, because we are using technologies in ways that we haven’t yet conceived and discovering resources that we never knew we could find, let alone extract and refine.”



**Tim Ledbetter**  
Vice President  
Operations  
**Epiroc**

## Technology Enabling a Brave New World

Tim Ledbetter explored how innovation and automation are reshaping mining, with a focus on safety, flexibility and sustainability. He introduced Epiroc’s LinkOA system, which enables mixed-fleet automation at your own pace, and shared tangible results from projects already delivering emissions savings and productivity gains.

“Our brave new world isn’t just about machines, it’s about people, purpose and progress.”



## Panel: Empowering the Change Makers

Panellists:

- Facilitator: Caoilin Chestnutt, Head of Corporate Technical Services - **Thiess**
- Marita Cheng, Founder & Chief Executive Officer - **Aubot & Robogals**
- Katie Hulmes, Head of Think & Act Differently - **BHP**
- Flavia Tata Nardini, Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer - **Fleet Space Technologies**
- Kerrie Wilson, Queensland Chief Scientist

An all-female panel of technical and innovation leaders delivered one of the most thought-provoking sessions of GRX25.

The discussion explored the barriers to innovation, the need to engage diverse voices, and the importance of mindset in driving meaningful change. From embedding a business mindset within innovation teams to creating more visible pathways for internal ideas, the panellists challenged the audience to think and act differently - and to have the tough conversations that lead to real progress.





**Michael Watson**  
General Manager  
Group Technical  
Services  
**Evolution Mining**

### Innovation - Ensuring New Opportunities Are Not 'Missed'

Michael Watson challenged the audience to consider whether the industry is truly ready to seize the next wave of innovation. Reflecting on Kodak's failure to act on its own invention, he warned against complacency in the face of change.

"The landscape for mining has changed and is changing. Let's seize the moment and redefine what mining can be – smarter, safer and more affordable."

He emphasised the need for proactive innovation to ensure Australia maintains its global leadership in mining—and that its benefits continue to be shared across the nation.



**Owen Hegarty**  
HonFAusIMM  
Executive Chair  
**EMR Capital**

### Mining's Pivotal Role in Australia's Past, Present and Future Success

Owen Hegarty brought decades of experience to the GRX25 stage, reflecting on global demand, the investment climate, and the urgency of scaling innovation. He spoke about the importance of strong local relationships and building trust on the ground to ensure long-term success.

"You've got to build confidence, build trust and build relationships with people on the ground, otherwise you may as well not be there."

He described the current landscape as an inflection point for mining and urged the industry to take bold steps to meet accelerating demand and support the energy transition.



**Karl Malitz**  
FAusIMM  
Manager Open  
Innovation  
**Rio Tinto**

### Co Innovation is Key

Karl Malitz explored how open innovation enables cross-industry collaboration and stronger relationships with communities, particularly Traditional Owners. He emphasised the importance of early engagement, knowledge sharing, and building trust across all stages of the mining lifecycle.

"Open innovation is the way we bring the outside to the inside of the business and the inside to the outside of the business."

Malitz highlighted the need to demonstrate technology integration years in advance, and called for stronger ties with sectors like construction to reduce project timelines.





**Trent Wehr**  
Managing Director  
**Liebherr Australia**

### Liebherr – FMG Collaboration

Trent Wehr reflected on the \$6 billion Liebherr–Fortescue deal, describing it as a bold, non-traditional partnership designed to drive real change in the industry. The collaboration spans hundreds of trucks and excavators, underpinned by shared investment, joint decision-making and strong strategic alignment.

“You need to have absolute strategic alignment... trust, collaboration and equal decision making is vital.”

Wehr emphasised that to accelerate progress, mining needs deeper, more integrated partnerships that challenge conventional models.



### Panel: Fossil Fuel or Future Fuel? The Role of Coal in Australia’s Long-Term Prosperity

This panel explored the role of coal in Australia’s energy future, featuring strong perspectives from Jason Economidis (GM3), Nick Jorss (Bowen Coking Coal), and Mick Crowe (Bravus), and facilitated by Jodie Currie (Bowen Basin Mining Club).

Panelists challenged common narratives around coal’s decline, highlighting its ongoing relevance in steelmaking, energy security and regional employment. They discussed the global demand outlook, the need to protect Australia’s competitive advantage, and the importance of industry storytelling.

“You can’t have anything in your life without steel – and you can’t have steel without coal.” – Jason Economidis

“Let’s treasure what we’ve got. We’ve got a tremendous mining industry that’s full of innovation.” – Nick Jorss

“It’s incumbent on all of us to help people understand – coal is good and mining is good.” – Mick Crowe



### Panel: Dynamic Leadership to Drive a New Era

- Facilitator: Alan Broome FAusIMM, Chairman Emeritus - **Austmine**
- Steve Kovac, CEO - **Idemitsu Australia**
- Ron Douglas, Executive Director & CEO - **VHM Ltd**
- Geeta Thakorlal, VP Technology Australia - **BHP**
- John Russell, Founder & Executive Chairman - **Russell Mineral Equipment**
- Jo-Anne Dudley, Non-Executive Director - **Ora Banda Mining**

This closing panel explored how leadership must evolve as the industry faces skills shortages, rising expectations and the need to innovate faster. Speakers emphasised the importance of emotional intelligence, people-first leadership, and making mining more attractive to the next generation.

“It’s not about the what or the why—we’re struggling with the how.”  
– Geeta Thakorlal

“We need people to be on the journey with the strategy.” – Steve Kovac

The session called for bold, collaborative leadership to navigate complexity and drive lasting change.

# International Engagement

GRX25 served as a key platform for Australian METS companies to engage with global mining leaders and showcase new technologies and innovations.

More than 150 international delegates attended from both established and emerging mining regions, including India, USA, Canada, Indonesia, Vietnam, Peru, Zambia, and Papua New Guinea. The largest delegation was from the Philippines, led by The Hon. Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga, Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) as GRX25's Global Engagement Partner, played a central role in supporting international participation and facilitating connections across the program.

## International Program Highlights



### Brisbane Mining Innovation Tour

The international program commenced with a full-day tour of Queensland innovation hubs. Delegates visited JK Tech and the Sustainable Minerals Institute at the University of Queensland, the Komatsu Innovation Hub, and Universal Field Robots - highlighting local capabilities in research, digital transformation, sustainability, and advanced manufacturing.



### Southeast Asia Mining Innovation Exchange

Delivered in collaboration with Austrade, the Southeast Asia Mining Innovation Exchange provided a forum for senior leaders from Masan High-Tech Materials, Nickel Asia Corporation, Vinacomin, and Genluiching Mining Corporation to share insights into operational challenges and strategic priorities. The session concluded with a round of speed networking, where Australian companies pitched solutions in a fast-paced, collaborative setting.



### International Lounge

Located within the GRX25 exhibition, the International Lounge hosted more than 40 targeted B2B meetings over two days, providing a dedicated space for international delegates to connect with Australian METS companies and explore potential partnerships.



# Global Open Innovation Colab



GRX25 hosted the inaugural Global Open Innovation Colab - an initiative designed to bring together leaders from mining innovation hubs, research institutions, and global collaboration partners to explore shared challenges and opportunities.

Across three sessions, participants gained insights into leading innovation models and approaches from organisations including:

- **Centre for Excellence in Mining Innovation (CEMI)**
- **Expande** (Fundacion Chile)
- **Global Mining Guidelines Group (GMG)**
- **NORCAT**
- **Peru Mining Innovation Hub**
- **Prospect Innovation**
- **Rio Tinto**
- **Think and Act Differently** (powered by BHP)

## **Session 1:** **Connect – Introductory** **Meet & Greet**

Global innovation leaders shared their current initiatives and strategic priorities, establishing a shared foundation for collaboration and identifying common innovation challenges across regions

## **Session 2:** **Strategise – Collaboration** **Café: Building Trust and** **Alignment**

This plenary session focused on overcoming barriers to collaboration and building trust and alignment across the mining value chain.

## **Session 3:** **Align – Global Open** **Innovation Colab**

A workshop-style session that brought innovation leaders together with GRX attendees to explore priority areas where collective, cross-sector action is required.

## **Key outcomes**

The three key innovation priorities emerging from the Colab sessions were:

- Re-defining the narrative of mining – positioning the industry as essential, high-tech and critical to global sustainable development.
- Embedding a culture of innovation – building lasting mechanisms to foster innovation at all levels of the sector.
- Establishing an industry-wide innovation platform – enabling more open idea exchange, streamlined IP management and global collaboration.

Austmine will now coordinate the next steps to advance these outcomes into concrete actions and long-term impact.

# Collaborative Conversation

## Breakout Streams

The Collaborative Conversations Breakout Streams at GRX25 provided a platform for deeper exploration of some of the most complex and future-focused challenges facing the resources sector. Each session was structured around a series of short, thought-provoking presentations, followed by an interactive panel discussion. Delegates were invited to participate via live polls and open dialogue, contributing their insights and questions to shape the conversation in real time.

These sessions encouraged honest discussion, diverse perspectives and shared problem-solving, with each stream focused on a specific future state or goal for the industry.



### Next-Gen Energy and Decarbonisation Solutions

Ian Webster (Ampcontrol), Kevin Mascarenhas (Komatsu) and Dave Sammut (Loop Hydrometallurgy) shared technologies supporting emissions reduction across energy systems, equipment and mineral processing. The discussion highlighted the need for faster adoption, stronger partnerships and aligning innovation with operational delivery.



### Digital Mining: Revolutionising the Mining Lifecycle

Joe Delaney (Salesforce), Matt Smith (MyPass Global) and Richard Marshall (Libero AI) explored digital tools transforming mining, including agentic AI, workforce platforms and pilot-driven innovation. Speakers reflected on the practical realities of implementation and the importance of trust, integration and clear digital strategies.



### Making a Mining Tech Market

Charles Gillies (RFC Jolimont), Mark Frayman (Orion Industrial Ventures), Flavia Tata Nardini (Fleet Space), Jacques Janse (Phibion) and Aaron Baensch (Atrico) explored how to better support the commercialisation and scale-up of mining technologies. Speakers identified long procurement cycles, limited venture capital and difficulty accessing pilot sites as key barriers. A live poll showed 71% of attendees view Australia as an attractive but underdeveloped market, underscoring the need for stronger links between innovation, capital and customers.



### Towards Zero through Circularity and Innovation in ESG

Jonathan Miln (Thiess Rehabilitation), Jo Heyes (Quartex), Ashley McAleese (Masan High-Tech Materials) and Jennifer Agnew (EnviroMETS) shared approaches to rethinking mine closure, waste reprocessing, and land use through the lens of circularity. The panel explored how ESG innovation can turn liabilities into opportunities, particularly through technology, early-stage planning and cross-sector collaboration.



### Going Where No Human Has Gone Before: Mining in Extreme Environments

Speakers from Kal Tire, Pitcrew AI, Newmont and Lunar Outpost shared cutting-edge technologies enabling mining in some of the world's most challenging environments, from ultra-deep underground operations to lunar exploration. The panel looked ahead to the underground mine of the future, asking how deep we can go, what's technically possible, and where robotics, autonomy and remote operations will take us next.

# Workshops and Events



## Austmine Accelerating Emissions Reduction in Coal Mines Workshop

This workshop brought together miners, METS companies, researchers, and government representatives to explore practical solutions for reducing fugitive methane emissions in coal mining.

Presentations covered a range of technologies, including pre-drainage, ventilation air methane (VAM) abatement, catalytic oxidation, and emerging “Emissions to X” technologies. Speakers also shared insights from current pilot projects and the regulatory pressures driving change.

In brainstorming sessions, participants worked through key barriers, such as the cost of gas modelling, limited pilot access, and slow procurement, and developed seven project ideas. Two were identified as immediate priorities: establishing a Regional Gas Hub and improving the accuracy and cost-effectiveness of gas reservoir modelling.

A full outcomes report will be shared to help progress the next steps.





# Workshops and Events



## AusIMM Policy Forum

On 20 May, AusIMM hosted a half-day 'Professional Pathways' Policy Forum. The event focused on expanding and diversifying pathways into resource professions through vocational, undergraduate, and postgraduate channels. It reviewed current programs, identified scalable innovative approaches, and defined key issues and recommendations for a national whitepaper consultation.

Forum delegates represented mining disciplines from all Queensland universities, University of New South Wales, state and federal government agencies, mining companies and peak bodies including AMEC, Austmine and the Queensland Resources Council.

Key findings highlighted the need for new vocational and associate degrees, industry-based higher research, and professional mobility data. The Forum and whitepaper aim to enhance AusIMM's relevance to state and federal governments, evidenced by strong engagement from ministers and advisors post-Forum.



## AusIMM HR Connect

AusIMM also co-hosted its latest 'HR Connect' event with KPMG, bringing together human resources professionals in the sector to strategically discuss opportunities and challenges to support and upskill the mining workforce.

The event featured presentations from KPMG experts, including a discussion on best practices for implementing 'in the flow of work' learning and the training opportunities for new tools such as AI; as well as a presentation on attracting and retaining Gen Z in the resources sector.

The HR Connect Series showcases AusIMM's leading role as the peak body for all resources professionals, and leveraged the future focused nature of GRX to have a collaborative discussion in the face of rapid and exciting changes in modern workplaces.







## Meet the Miners

Austmine's popular Meet the Miners® networking event returned at GRX25, bringing together mining leaders, METS companies and representatives from the space sector. Delivered in partnership with the Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA), the session offered participants the opportunity to hear firsthand about current challenges, innovation priorities and emerging opportunities across the mining value chain.

Delegates engaged in focused discussions with representatives from Rio Tinto, Newmont, BHP, Glencore, Aurelia Metals, CITIC Pacific Mining, Westgold Resources and the Australian Space Agency. The inclusion of the space sector introduced new perspectives and underscored the growing alignment between industries, particularly in areas such as technology, automation and remote operations.

**FLEET**



## Women in STEM Breakfast

The BMA Women in STEM Networking Breakfast brought together students, early-career professionals and senior leaders for a morning of insight and connection.

Sonia Winter, General Manager at BHP Mitsubishi Alliance and 2024 Exceptional Woman in Queensland Resources, opened the event with reflections on industry change and the importance of championing inclusion.

Keynote speaker Marita Cheng, Founder of Robogals and CEO of Aubot, shared her personal journey in engineering, building a global movement, and driving change through innovation.

A panel discussion, *Owning Your Voice – Navigating Growth, Advocacy and Leadership*, explored how women can step into their power at every career stage. Moderated by Claire Chakrabarti (Austmine), the panel featured:

Panellists included:

- Sara Wodyk, Head of Operations and Maintenance, Newlands (Glencore)
- Geeta Thakorlal, Vice President Technology, BHP
- Marita Cheng, Founder and CEO, Aubot & Robogals
- Sarah Zeljko, Non-Executive Director, Powerlink, Energy Queensland

The discussion encouraged attendees to embrace leadership, speak up with confidence, and help shape a more inclusive resources sector.



# GRX25 Student Program

The GRX25 Student Stream was designed to bridge the gap between study and industry, giving university students real-world exposure to the resources and METS sector. Through two targeted programs, the BMA Future Leaders Program and the University Careers Open Day, students gained valuable insights, developed networks, and built the confidence to take the next step in their careers.



## BMA Future Leaders Program

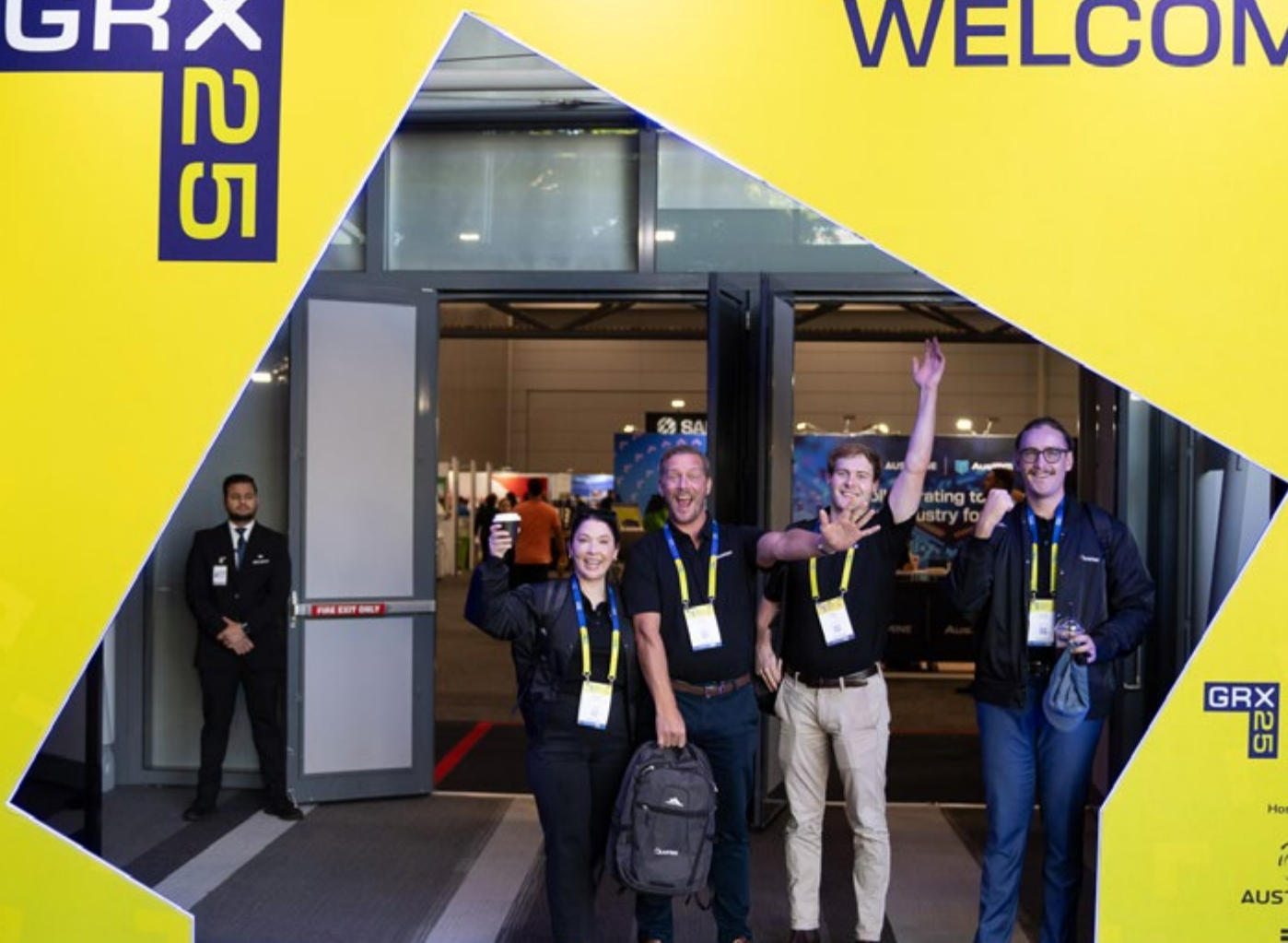
The BMA Future Leaders Program provided 20 university students with fully sponsored access to GRX25, supporting industry engagement and skill development across the three-day event. Selected through a competitive process focused on diversity and inclusion, students represented a range of STEM disciplines and were supported through tailored activities and mentoring.

The program began with a pre-conference webinar covering practical tips, planning, and networking preparation. On arrival, students joined a welcome and induction session, featuring a careers panel and industry insights, followed by the GRX25 Welcome Reception.

Over the following days, students engaged in curated activities including plenary sessions, the BMA Women in STEM Networking Breakfast, a guided exhibition tour, and mentoring conversations. The program concluded with a group debrief and individual check-ins. Feedback highlighted the program's impact in building confidence, enhancing sector understanding, and fostering lasting connections.

# GRX 25

# WELCOME



GRX  
25 Global Resources Innovation Expo

Hosted by

AUSTMINE

## University Careers Open Day

The University Careers Open Day, sponsored by AUSMASA, welcomed 54 students for an afternoon of industry learning and engagement. The program provided a real-world view of careers in mining and METS, highlighting emerging opportunities and honest conversations about working in the industry.

Students explored the GRX25 Exhibition before joining Collaborative Conversation breakout sessions on Decarbonisation Solutions, Digital Mining, and Commercialising Mining Tech, where they heard directly from innovation leaders and contributed their own insights.

A high-energy speed networking and mentoring session followed, with 15 industry professionals sharing their advice and career journeys through small-group rotations. Mentors praised the students' thoughtful questions, while participants described the session as a highlight.

The day concluded with a guided exhibition tour and attendance at the GRX25 Networking Reception, providing further opportunities for connection and career inspiration.





## Exhibition Floor

The GRX25 Exhibition brought together **120 leading companies** from across the mining, METS and resources value chain, creating a dynamic hub for innovation, connection and collaboration. Across the two days, the exhibition floor was a focal point for networking, business development and knowledge exchange, with exhibitors showcasing cutting-edge solutions to support the industry's future.





# Accenture Innovation Zone

accenture  
Innovation  
Zone

GRX  
2025

The Accenture Innovation Zone featured a diverse portfolio of emerging technologies that demonstrated the depth of innovation solutions addressing key challenges across the mining value chain.

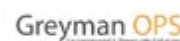
Featuring 24 exhibitors, the innovative solutions on display included AI-powered platforms for environmental intelligence and knowledge delivery, next-generation automation tools improving safety and efficiency, and advanced sensing systems offering greater operational visibility in real time.

Several exhibitors presented solutions advancing decarbonisation and emissions reduction, with simulation models, low-impact extraction methods, and electrification planning tools, reflecting the sector's push toward safer, smarter and more sustainable operations.

A highlight of the zone was the Accenture Innovation Competition. Designed to celebrate bold, practical ideas, all Innovation Zone participants were provided the chance to showcase their demos, stories, and passion for innovation.

The winner of the 2025 competition was Stimulá Strategic Consulting, recognised for their AI-based solution, Fitlris. Fitlris uses AI and eye scanning to detect fatigue and cognitive impairment, boosting workplace safety.

Stimulá Strategic Consulting impressed a panel of respected industry leaders with a solution that stood out across six key criteria: industry relevance, technical innovation, practical applicability, business and environmental value, usability, and execution.



# Industry Leaders & Awards Dinner

The Industry Leaders & Awards Dinner brought together more than 700 industry professionals, executives, and government representatives for an evening of recognition, reflection, and celebration. The evening celebrated five major award categories, recognising excellence across innovation, export, emerging talent, and leadership, highlighting those shaping the future of the resources sector.







# Industry Leaders Award Winners

## Craig Senger Excellence in Export

Supported by



### Austin Engineering

Austin Engineering exemplifies Australian export excellence, delivering mining equipment globally that shows how Australian-engineered innovation can solve mining challenges worldwide. Austin Engineering manufactures on four continents, establishing the largest global footprint of any dedicated customised off-highway truck body and bucket provider. Their strategic footprint has driven remarkable export growth, reaching \$173 million just in the last financial year – representing 55 per cent of total revenue.

## Outstanding Innovative METS Company

Sponsored by



### BluVein

Established in 2021, BluVein has engineered a game-changing approach to mining electrification. Their patented dynamic charging rail system allows battery-electric haul trucks to receive continuous power while in motion. This eliminates compromises that have hindered previous electrification efforts in both open pit and underground environments. By enabling vehicles to operate with smaller batteries and charge continuously along haul routes, BluVein provides miners with a viable pathway to eliminate diesel dependence whilst maintaining or improving productivity.

## Exceptional Innovation in Mining

Sponsored by



### Roy Hill

Roy Hill's TrackDefectX system leverages their internally-developed AI to automate and continually improve the detection of Rolling Contact Fatigue and other rail defects, significantly reducing derailment risks. This innovation has achieved measurable impacts including \$475,000 in annual maintenance savings and a greater than 10% increase in rail lifespan. Its versatile architecture enables future expansion to detect additional track issues, setting new standards for railway safety worldwide.



## Excellence in Resources by a New Professional

Presented by



### **Thomas Taylor MAusIMM, Senior Metallurgist, Fortescue**

Thomas is a senior metallurgist at Fortescue and an AusIMM New Professionals Network Ambassador. He is passionate about promoting mentorship in the mining industry. At the Iron Bridge magnetite mine, Fortescue has broken new ground in the use of energy and water-efficient mineral processing methods through the deployment of AI-driven solutions to address the green transition challenges.

At Iron Bridge, a key technical risk was identified in the product moisture with the potential to cause bottlenecks. This challenge was resolved under Thomas's guidance through a range of innovative solutions, including the novel application of vibration to vacuum filtration and AI vision for detection of wet material. The project required a diverse skill set, managing up to 8 contractor groups whilst deploying novel technologies and achieving daily production goals. At the halfway mark, the project has already enhanced the safety of shipping the product whilst achieving KPI's for the operation.

## Champion of Innovation Award

Sponsored by



### **Dr John Russell MAusIMM, Founder and Executive Chairman, Russell Mineral Equipment**

The Champion of Innovation award recognises an individual's significant contribution to innovation in the mining industry and contribution to the METS sector across the course of their career. It rewards lifetime achievement and acknowledges an individual who has created step-change in the industry, driven an innovation ethos, has achieved business success and is an outstanding leader. The judges are METS and innovation industry experts, including past winners of this award.

**Thank you for your support.**

**Please join us at GRX26 in  
Perth from 5-7 May 2026.**



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**For more information, visit [grx.au](http://grx.au)**