



# Geotechnical Design and Implementation for Open Pits Seminar

8:00–12:30 AWST, 21-25 November 2022 | Theatre Auditorium, Oceans Institute,  
The University of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia | Online

REGISTRATION BROCHURE

The ACG is committed to supporting the development of modern, efficient and profitable mining operations throughout the world. To this end, the ACG presents worldwide training courses and events; the objective of which is to rapidly develop capacity through technology transfer and teaching best practice that enhances mining organisations' profitability and minimises future environmental impacts from their mining operations.

This seminar will be held both in-person and online, facilitating participation from anywhere in the world.

## TOPICS INCLUDE

- Geotechnical hazard recognition and monitoring
- Pit slope stability design and implementation
- Weathered materials
- Rock support and reinforcement principles
- Risk management
- Groundwater and surface water
- Waste dumps and stockpiles
- Control blasting principles

## ABOUT THE SEMINAR

This ACG event will be presented by industry personnel involved in the geomechanical and hydrogeological aspects of open pit analysis. They bring together a wealth of experience to share with event participants. The seminar is designed for practical operational personnel, mine planners, mining engineers, geologists, blasting practitioners and anyone involved in day-to-day open cut operations.

## TABLE TOP DISPLAY SPONSOR

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See event program overleaf

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## DAY 1 – MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER\*

07:00	REGISTRATION
07:45	Introduction <i>Professor Phil Dight, Australian Centre for Geomechanics</i>
08:00	Key elements of geomechanics for open pit mines <i>Peter Terbrugge, SRK Consulting, South Africa</i>
08:45	Overview of personal experience of open pit geotechnical engineering <i>Duncan Ross, BHP</i>
09:30	Geotechnical slope stability assessment of AGL Loy Yang Mine: from the operational to conceptual post-closure phase, utilising a risk-based approach <i>Tanya Mok and James Butler, GHD</i>
10:15	MORNING BREAK
10:45	Hydrogeology and dewatering at Woodie Woodie Mine <i>Jinjun Jiang, Consolidated Minerals Pty Ltd</i>
11:15	Slope stability, a simple guide to pore-pressure grids <i>Matthew McGann, Newmont</i>
12:00	Discussion
12:30	DAY ONE CLOSE

## DAY 2 – TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER\*

08:00	From slope design to mine planning and beyond <i>Rob Thomas, Absolute Geotechnics Pty Ltd</i>
08:45	(Some) considerations for mining developments in the tropics <i>Dr George Brink, Rio Tinto</i>
09:30	Fifteen years and analysis of hundreds of open pit failures: what we have learned that should feed back into open pit design <i>Dr Neal Harries, Hexagon Mine Monitoring</i>
10:15	MORNING BREAK
10:45	Geotechnical hazard recognition and monitoring and pit slope stability design and implementation <i>Jo Graaf, Gold Fields Australia</i>
11:30	Mine design and risk management <i>Julian Venter, AngloGold Ashanti</i>
12:15	Discussion
12:30	DAY TWO CLOSE

## DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER\*

08:00	Advanced satellite InSAR for slope monitoring and risk management <i>Jessica Morgan, TRE Altamira</i>
08:45	Rockfall modelling in open pits <i>Frans Basson, Newmont Australia</i>
09:15	Rockfall management <i>Dr Felicia Weir, PSM</i>
10:00	MORNING BREAK
10:30	Geotechnical block modelling <i>Denisha Sewnun, Australian Centre for Geomechanics</i>
11:15	Spatially distributed and multi-temporal inverse velocity analysis: toward a proactive slope monitoring approach <i>Dr Paolo Farina, Geoapp, Italy</i>
12:00	Discussion
12:15	DAY THREE CLOSE

\*Program subject to change, visit [acg.uwa.edu.au/events](http://acg.uwa.edu.au/events) for updates.

DAY 4 – THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER*	
08:00	Geotechnical hazard recognition and monitoring at Talison Lithium Kyle Abbott, <i>Talison Greenbushes Lithium Operation</i>
08:45	A case study: blasting of the west wall – controlling slope displacements <i>Roberto Giglio, Northern Star Resources, Thunderbox Operations</i>
09:30	Blasting practices at PT. Indo Muro Kencana <i>Heru Utama, PT. Indo Muro Kencana, Indonesia</i>
10:15	MORNING BREAK
10:45	A case study: open pit mining through crown pillars above large underground stopes <i>Tony Rorke, Explosives Application Specialist South Africa; and Dr Lindsay Linzer, SRK Consulting South Africa</i>
12:15	Discussion
12:30	DAY FOUR CLOSE

DAY 5 – FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER*	
08:00	Implementing a wall control blasting program in hard rock: pre-splitting and trim blasting program at Iron Ore Company, Canada <i>Greg Abrahams, Rio Tinto Kennecott, USA</i>
08:45	Vibration control blasting below moving pit walls in soft rock: some examples from Bingham Canyon <i>Greg Abrahams, Rio Tinto Kennecott, USA</i>
09:30	Can blasting improve the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) accountability? <i>Dr Ebrahim Fathi Salmi, Hard Rock Mining, CSIRO</i>
10:15	MORNING BREAK
10:45	Blasting in proximity to cultural heritage sites <i>Richard Sullivan, Blast It Global Pty Ltd</i>
11:30	Establishing and maintaining a successful pit slope database for the identification and mitigation of potential pit slope instability <i>Sharla Coetsee, Reutech Mining, South Africa</i>
12:15	Blast fragmentation for production: what does it do to walls? <i>Phil Dight, Australian Centre for Geomechanics</i>
13:00	Discussion
13:30	SEMINAR CLOSE

\*Program subject to change, visit [acg.uwa.edu.au/events](http://acg.uwa.edu.au/events) for updates.

## Online Repository of Conference Proceedings



*Accessing geomechanical excellence*

Since 2005, the ACG has published highly technical conference papers across the geotechnical mining spectrum, including underground and open pit mining, paste, thickened and filtered tailings, and mine closure. This repository aims to provide the mining geomechanics fraternity with open access, peer-reviewed conference papers that may assist readers to maintain and develop their skills, knowledge and capabilities.

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### Kyle Abbott

Senior Geotechnical Engineer  
Greenbushes Lithium Operation

Kyle has 15 years' experience in the mining industry, including over 10 years in operational geotechnical roles. He is currently leading the geotechnical team at Talison Lithium during a period of rapid expansion at their Greenbushes open cut mine. He completed a Bachelor of Geomatic Engineering from the University of Melbourne in 2007 and a Master of Mine Engineering (Mine Geomechanics) from The University of New South Wales in 2012.



### Greg Abrahams

Manager Geotechnical  
Rio Tinto, Canada

Greg has 16 years' geotechnical mining experience in both consulting and operational roles at sites in Canada, USA, South America, Philippines, New Zealand, and Africa. At Bingham Canyon Mine he leads the geotechnical and survey teams and is the responsible person for all monitoring and implementation aspects of the operation. Prior to working at Bingham Canyon, Greg was the principal geotechnical advisor and qualified individual at Rio Tinto's Iron Ore Company of Canada Mine. In a consulting role, Greg worked on numerous mine design projects from scoping level, through to feasibility and operational level design. Greg has designed and implemented wall control blasting controls at surface mine operations in both hard rock and weak ground to enable optimisation of pit slope design and the ability to blast and operate safely below moving pit walls.



### Frans Basson

Director Geotechnical Underground  
Newmont Australia

Frans began his geotechnical journey in 1996 and filled various operational roles for the next eight years. After that, he joined two consultancies and accepted a position at Newmont in December 2007, where he served in different geotechnical capacities within the company.

His first degree was in physics and chemistry, but he worked through the South African Chamber of Mines Competency Tickets and obtained the Advanced Rock Engineering Ticket in 2001 and a Master of Engineering (Geotechnical) degree in 2005. He has recently been involved in many project studies involving various forms of stoping under waste fill.

Frans is a hobby programmer who makes geotechnical software available under the BasRock banner.



### Dr George Brink

Specialist Engineer Geotechnical  
Rio Tinto

George has more than 12 years of international experience working as a geotechnical specialist in the mining and civil industries throughout Australia, New Zealand, and southern, central and western Africa. He completed a PhD in 2016, received the ABA Brink Award from SAIEG for a publication based on this research, and has authored multiple papers published in international and peer-reviewed journals. He has been a part-time lecturer and external examiner for several undergraduate and postgraduate engineering and geology subjects at the University of Pretoria and University of Auckland. He is currently a specialist geotechnical engineer with Rio Tinto in Perth.



### James Butler

Graduate Geotechnical Engineer  
GHD

During his time at GHD, James has contributed to various slope design projects for the extractive industries including the three open pit brown coal mines located in Victoria's Latrobe Valley, hard rock, and construction aggregate quarries across his home state. Additionally, James has performed site-based roles, including being a design representative for the Hazelwood Mine - East Field Northern Batters Rehabilitation Earthworks, a geotechnical engineer for the Hazelwood Mine, and provided emergency geotechnical support for the Yallourn Mine after flooding in June 2021 resulted in significant batter movement and cracking.



### Sharla Coetsee

Group Geotechnical Engineer  
Reutech Mining, South Africa

Sharla is a qualified geologist who has focused on the field of engineering geology since 2009. Her involvement in mining projects has included early phase geological exploration as well as concept level to full design and construction for open-pit mines. She has also provided specialist geotechnical and monitoring services for both open-pit and underground operations. Sharla is now focusing on radar applications for pit slope monitoring.



### Professor Phil Dight

Professor of Geotechnical Engineering  
Australian Centre for Geomechanics  
The University of Western Australia

Phil has been involved with the development and design of ground support for mining applications since 1975. He was a partner in BFP Consultants until BFP was acquired by Coffey Mining. Phil has extensive consulting experience in the geotechnical aspects of the mining industry and has worked on open pit and underground metalliferous mining problems. In 1985 he was awarded the Manuel Rocha Medal by the International Society of Rock Mechanics for his work in open pit mining and use of ground support to improve pit stability. His ground support algorithm has been adopted by Rocscience in its evaluation of ground support in Phases®, and a variation has been adopted by ITASCA in the Bonded Block Model. In the 1980s with Dr Peter Fuller, he undertook research into ground support work in numerous AMIRA sponsored projects based on open stope mining. Much of that early research work has now been formalised in the literature by others. Phil joined the Australian Centre for Geomechanics in 2008 and has since been working on stress memory effects in rocks, ground support applications, slope stability problems (including the use of microseismicity to understand failure mechanisms), and 3D rock properties. Most recently, Phil completed a four-year MRIWA project aimed at investigating the issues of strainburst vulnerability in underground mines.



**Dr Paolo Farina**  
 Managing Director  
 Geoapp s.r.l., Italy

Paolo is currently managing Geoapp, a service and consultancy company he founded in 2015 as a spin off of the University of Firenze, focused on geotechnical risk assessment for mining, natural hazards and infrastructure projects. Paolo's specialties are monitoring technologies, early warning systems and engineering geology, with a focus on satellite InSAR and slope stability radar and GPS, integrated data analysis and interpretation and structural mapping based on remote sensing data, such as laser and photogrammetric point clouds. From 2003 to 2007, he worked as assistant professor of engineering geology at the University of Firenze, working as a consultant for the Italian Civil Protection Department on more than 20 projects. He was a visiting scientist at MIT, USA, in 2004-2005. From 2007 to 2015, he worked for IDS where he created and managed the Mining Business Unit leading to the successful introduction of a new SAR based radar into the mining industry. Around 2,500 citations in more than 60 scientific publications and international peer reviewed journals on engineering geological topics.



**Dr Ebrahim Fathi Salmi**  
 Senior Research Scientist in Mining  
 Geomechanics, Hard Rock Mining  
 CSIRO

Ebrahim is a senior researcher and a design engineer with extensive experience in rock mechanics and rock engineering. Ebrahim triggered his journey in geotechnical engineering, in 2007, when he started working as a tunnel engineer for a civil engineering consulting firm. He was involved with a broad range of projects, including mechanised and conventional tunnelling, design, and the stability analysis of excavations in problematic grounds (e.g. heavily tectonised rocks and fault zones; swelling and squeezing rocks; water-bearing grounds and anisotropic and foliated rock masses). Ebrahim also worked on the long-term stability analysis of abandoned mine workings and the valorisation of these excavations for other engineering applications. He used two- and three-dimensional continuous and discontinuous numerical modellings to investigate the long-term stability of mining excavations and the risks of ground failure. Ebrahim joined CSIRO in 2017 and has since been involved with several projects, including Measurement While Drilling in Iron Ore Mines; In-situ Characterisation of Rock Masses for the Selective Blasting of Rocks; Rock Fragmentation for Mine to Mill Optimisation and Grade Engineering; and Analytical and Numerical Modelling for the Stability Analysis of Surface and Underground Mining Excavations.



**Roberto Giglio**  
 Geotechnical Superintendent  
 Northern Star Resources Limited

Roberto graduated from the University of Santiago with a bachelor's degree in mining engineering. He began working for Call & Nicholas geotechnical consultants in the early 1990s in South and North America on geotechnical projects involving data gathering, analysis, conceptual modelling, stability modelling and design recommendations. He then pursued a career in mining operations as a drill and blast engineer, where he gained an understanding of production blast and blast damage. Afterwards, he moved back into an operational geotechnical role with Freeport Americas, based in Chile. His move to Australia saw a brief return to consultancy before returning to geotechnical operations involving work in blast damage and geotechnical design in iron ore, porphyry copper, and gold in the Goldfields, and coal at Gunnedah Basin NSW.



**Jo Graaf**  
 Unit Manager – Geotechnical  
 Gold Fields Australia Pty Ltd

Jo is a geotechnical engineer with over 15 years' experience in the mining industry across a variety of commodities where she worked in both underground and open pit operations. Her previous roles took her around the world having worked on projects in Laos, China, South Korea, Africa, Canada and the USA.



**Dr Neal Harries**  
 Director Mine Monitoring APAC  
 Hexagon Geosystems

Neal has worked in the mining industry for over 24 years, working as a consultant engineer with Golder Associates, as well as roles in research organisations focused on rock mechanics or slope stability. He has a BSc (Hons) in Geology from Cardiff University of Wales and a PhD in Mining Engineering from The University of Queensland (Rock Mechanics). His areas of specialisation have been in open pit rock mechanics, mine monitoring and risk management. As director of Hexagon Mine Monitoring, Neal manages P&L, service and support of the mine monitoring business in the Asia Pacific region, and has a special interest in mentoring geotechnical engineers in the business.



**Dr Jinjun Jiang**  
 Principal Geotechnical and  
 Hydrogeology  
 Consolidated Minerals

Jinjun is a mining engineer with over 20 years' open pit geotechnical experience including two years of blasting experience and four years of dewatering experience, working mainly in Western Australia. He is currently the principal geotechnical and hydrogeology with Consolidated Minerals. He is responsible for open pit geotechnical design studies, operational geotechnical practices, and wall control blasting practices. In addition, he is responsible for regional dewatering strategy and short-term pit dewatering practices.



**Dr Lindsay Linzer**  
 Corporate Consultant/Principal  
 Geophysicist  
 SRK South Africa

Lindsay is a consulting geophysicist to SRK with 26 years' combined experience in the processing and interpretation of seismic waves ranging from acoustic emissions recorded in the laboratory, seismic surveys for geotechnical purposes, seismicity induced by shallow and deep level mining, and seismic reflection data. She was recently appointed an honorary professor seismic wavefield simulation at the University of the Witwatersrand. Lindsay has applied state-of-the-art seismic interpretation technology to extract information vital to shaft-sinking, optimal borehole siting and mine-planning. She has specialist skills in determining seismic source mechanisms (laboratory tests in rock and concrete and mining seismology) through moment tensor inversion using her own code and expertise in dynamic numerical modelling (2D and 3D) of seismic waves for AE/NDT laboratory tests, mine-seismology problems, geotechnical problems, shaft-sinking, and reflection seismology. She has recently extended her dynamic modelling skills and has developed methods to model complex blast patterns for open pits and underground using Wave3D, a 3D finite difference full waveform modelling code. Since joining SRK, Lindsay has become involved in seismic hazard assessments for the design of engineering structures. She has also begun to apply seismic and electrical methods to assess the internal structures of tailings dams, with a particular interest

in quantifying brittleness. Lindsay is an enthusiastic user and programmer in mXrap, a geotechnical data analysis and monitoring platform within which data analysis tools have been developed under the Australian Centre for Geomechanics Mine Seismicity and Rockburst Risk Management project.



**Matthew McGann**  
Director of Hydrogeology  
Newmont

Matthew is director of hydrogeology in the Resource Evaluation and Mine Planning (REMP) team within Newmont corporate technical services. REMP provides technical support to stage gate studies and Newmont operated open pit and underground mining operations. While Matthew maintains a focus on pit slope depressurisation and operational dewatering, he also supports various Newmont studies and operations with baseline hydrogeological characterisation, mine water management planning and site-wide water balance forecasting. With a checkered history in standpipe piezometer installation, Matthew is a strong advocate for early and regular vibrating wire piezometer installation and monitoring.



**Tanya Mok**  
Geotechnical Engineer  
GHD

Tanya is a geotechnical engineer at GHD and has experience in various geotechnical assessments for open pit mines, quarries and site investigations. Tanya completed her Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) at The University of New South Wales in 2019 and is currently undertaking a Master of Engineering Science in geotechnical engineering and engineering geology. During her time at GHD, Tanya has provided onsite operational support for AGL Loy Yang mine and has also been involved in a number of slope stability assessments to support both their short- and long-term mine planning. She has also contributed to mine closure and rehabilitation studies for the various open pit brown coal mines within the Latrobe Valley (Victoria), BHP's Iron Orebody 17/18 Mine, Rio Tinto's Weipa bauxite site, and also quarry sites located within Victoria. Outside of mines, Tanya has provided geotechnical support for sand and hard rock quarries located within Victoria.



**Jessica Morgan**  
Country Manager - Australia & New Zealand  
TRE Altamira Inc.

Jessica has more than 11 years' experience as a specialist in the field of InSAR, with roles in technical data analysis, research, project supervision and business development. She has spent the last five years focused on the application of InSAR technology for asset monitoring and risk management within the mining sector, particularly on open pits and TSFs. She has a master's degree in remote sensing specialising in the processing and interpretation of satellite data for natural resource monitoring and management. As country manager of Australia for TRE Altamira, Jessica oversees all InSAR projects not only in the mining sector, but also civil engineering, energy and natural hazards.



**Tony Rorke**  
Specialist, Explosives Applications

Tony is a specialist in blasting in the mining and civil industries. He provides consulting services related to blasting and the development of new blasting technology. Since 1985, Tony has specialised in the consulting and development fields of blasting technology. His knowledge and experience include blast optimisation for mining in open cast, coal and quarries. He is also experienced in wall control blasting, blasting-related environmental studies, management of the development of technologies for blasting (examples being blasting software and precise electronic detonators). Until 2017, Tony was employed by BME South Africa as director blasting technology and blasting science where he was responsible for managing a group of mining engineers, software engineers, electronics engineers, scientists and technicians. Tony managed the development of the AXIS electronic detonator systems, from the Generation 1 system to the most recent Titanium detonator. His team comprised electronics engineers developing electronic delay detonators, software professionals developing the associated software, and a commercialisation team. Tony has published numerous papers on blasting technology at local and international blasting conferences.



**Duncan Ross**  
Geotechnical Specialist  
BHP

Duncan has a master's degree in engineering geology and worked in civil geotechnical engineering for eight years in the UK and Hong Kong. He has worked in a variety of operational and design geotechnical engineering roles in diamond and iron ore mines in Western Australia for the last 20 years.



**Denisha Sewnun**  
Masters Student and Research Fellow  
Australian Centre for Geomechanics  
The University of Western Australia

Denisha has more than 13 years of experience in the geomechanics aspects of open pit and underground mining projects. She has a BSc (honours) degree in Engineering Geology from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and a Master of Engineering degree in Geomechanics from the University of the Witwatersrand. In 2020, Denisha joined the ACG as a research fellow after having spent eight years providing consulting services for mining projects across Africa.

Denisha is currently a Master of Philosophy student involved in the in situ testing of ground support using blasting, which forms part of the Ground Support System Optimisation research project (GSSO3). She also assists with the Discrete Fracture Network/Block Model Limit Equilibrium Ground Support Design Tools research project and is a part of the mXrap team, where she works on the development of the Rock Mass Data Analyser application.



### Richard Sullivan

Specialist Drill and Blast Engineer  
Blast It Global

Richard is a field engineer who has spent the past 30+ years working on various blasting projects, quarry sites and mines in and around Australia. Richard has a lifetime passion for drilling and blasting. Four years ago, he started his own consultancy; Sedna D&B. He enjoys working with Drew Martin's company, Blast It Global, to provide formal training courses to The University of Western Australia students, to shotfirers, and coaching and mentoring programs to site-based geotechnical and blast design teams.



### Heru Utama

Junior Mining Manager  
Pt. Indo Muro Kencana, Indonesia

Heru is a mining engineer with more than 10 years' experience as a drill & blast superintendent (coal mining and gold mining). His current position is junior mining manager with PT. Indo Muro Kencana (PT. IMK, Muro Gold Mine, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia). He is responsible for implementing safety in mining operations, mining strategies and good blasting practices that will support PT. Indo Muro Kencana aim to increase safety and achieve good mining performance. Heru studied mining engineering in Trisakti University (Indonesia) and has a master's degree in mining engineering from The University of New South Wales (UNSW). In his spare time, Heru teaches drill & blast courses in Indonesia, watches action movies, and plays the drums in a band.



### Peter Terbrugge

Corporate Consultant  
SRK Consulting, South Africa

Peter has over 45 years' experience in mine engineering and mining geotechnics. Peter's specialisations include engineering geology, geotechnical engineering, slope stability, open pit mining and site investigations. He has also carried out mine feasibility studies, due diligence and independent geotechnical reviews of mining projects, as well as tunnelling. Peter is a fellow of three technical societies, an associate of one technical society and a registered professional natural scientist with SACNASP.



### Julian Venter

Manager Geotechnical Engineering  
AngloGold Ashanti

Julian graduated from the University of Pretoria (UP) in 2000 with a Bachelor in Civil Engineering. He subsequently obtained a Master in Geotechnical Engineering from UP in 2004, a Graduate Diploma in Rock Mechanics from the University of the Witwatersrand in 2007, followed by an MBA and a Master in Mineral Economics from Curtin University in 2017. He started his working career with SRK Consulting in Johannesburg in 2002 where he gained a well-rounded geotechnical exposure to a variety of problems including open pit and underground mining and construction. For geotechnical risk work carried out at SRK, he was co-recipient of the SAIMM Gold medal in 2007 and also co-recipient of the ARMA Award for Applied Rock Mechanics Research in 2009. In 2008, Julian and his family moved to Tom Price in Australia where he joined Rio Tinto's Tom Price Iron Ore mine as senior geotechnical engineer. In 2016, Julian started with AngloGold Ashanti as geotechnical manager for the continental Africa region. Throughout his career Julian has served on open pit design teams in roles including contributor, technical lead, project manager, project director and third party reviewer for more than 200 open pits and cut backs. Based on this experience he has become a champion of rigorous data based design processes based on a proper understanding of risk.



### Rob Thomas

Principal Consultant  
Absolute Geotechnics

Rob's career has been focused on the engineering geology and geotechnics of the resource sector since working at a Brazilian gold mine in 2005. Based in WA since 2008, Rob has predominantly worked on the geotechnical design and implementation of open pit slopes. Rob founded Absolute Geotechnics in early 2016 and continues to support mining companies and consultants across a wide range of commodities worldwide.



### Dr Felicia Weir

Principal  
PSM

Felicia is a principal engineering geologist at PSM, an Australia-based geotechnical engineering firm. She joined PSM over 17 years ago after completing her PhD at the University of Sydney. Felicia specialises in geotechnical open pit slope design and operational support. Her recent work has focused on the development of robust 3D engineering geology models, rockfall risk management and assisting operations in the management of unstable slopes. Felicia is a member of ARMA, AGS and AusIMM.



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REGISTRATION FORM

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**Payment to be received by 18 November 2022. All bank fees are the responsibility of the registrant. All prices include GST where applicable.**

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## ACG Geotechnical Design and Implementation for Open Pits Seminar (2250) | 21–25 November 2022

	<b>Standard</b> Paid after 14 Oct 2022
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> 2,200
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^ Students are required to provide proof of full-time enrolment.

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