

Protesting Guidelines for ACG Events

Overview

The Australian Centre for Geomechanics (ACG) manages and organises numerous events annually for the worldwide mining industry. Our conferences, seminars, short courses and workshops are available to a wide spectrum of the industry workforce and are aimed at developing personnel highly skilled in the understanding and application of geomechanics principles. Through the continuing education and training programs of the ACG, particular emphasis is placed on technology transfer, as well as bridging the gaps between the disciplines of geotechnical engineering, mining engineering and structural geology.

Our events can and will at times attract widespread media and community attention and can also attract some groups in the community who take the opportunity to express their views on our industry through public gatherings and protest activity.

The ACG respects the right of people to express their views peacefully and respectfully and we welcome open and transparent debate about the future of our industry, but we need to recognise and plan for the fact that there may be a level of community activity that seeks to disrupt or otherwise draw attention to any of our events.

What measures may the ACG have in place?

Once made aware of a protest, the ACG may be led by local police and security agencies to provide a safe and peaceful environment and minimise disruption to your arrival and throughout any of our events.

Keeping you safe and secure on event day

Registered attendees should refer to the event attendee portal. To ensure you are prepared and to assist with efficient entry to the event, attendees should plan to arrive early, allowing at least 45 minutes to get through registration.

There are a few steps you can take to minimise your exposure to protest action:

- **DO NOT** wear your name badge until you reach the front entrance of the conference venue.
- Try to avoid wearing any distinguishing items that will link you to the event, such as logos.
- If you are offered any protest handouts, please accept but **DO NOT** dispose of them until you are out of sight.
- **DO NOT** engage, debate or respond to invitations to converse with members of the public on your way to and from the event.
- **DO** report any aggressive or threatening behaviour immediately to the ACG event organisers and/or security if present.

- If you feel uncertain or threatened in any way, please approach the ACG event organisers and/or security if present. They are there to help.

Please be alert, but not alarmed. Your safety and security are our number one priority and we look forward to welcoming you to ACG events.

Anti-protesting laws globally

Internationally, protest laws can exist at the state or federal level, according to the country they are created in. Both state and federal laws can be used in the act of protest under criminal codes. Specifically, they are used in the circumstances of trespass and public assembly law to counteract protests. Please refer to the host country's government legislation around anti-protest laws.

There are a variety of anti-protest laws in Australia that exist, each having a different form and designated place in the law dependent on which state or territory.

If you have any questions, please email info-acg@uwa.edu.au