

iah Australian National Chapter NSW Branch

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Tuesday 13 March 2018 5.30pm for a 6pm start

WSP office

Ernst & Young Centre Level 27, 680 George Street, Sydney CBD

For late arrivals, please phone Peps on 0404963940 for access





IAH NSW proudly presents a talk by **Dr Wendy Timms**UNSW School of Mining Engineering and Connected Waters Initiative

Groundwater & mining: advances with pore pressure analysis and environmental tracer techniques

Groundwater in mining operations presents a number of challenges and opportunities – this talk presents examples of leading practice and R&D in progress. Evaluating potential hydrological changes due to mining is challenging. Opportunities for mine sites to share and store water are increasingly valuable, provided that water discharged is of suitable quality.

Analysis of high frequency pore pressures can reveal how systems work, and provides in-situ specific storage values to improve numerical groundwater models. Examples from the Gunnedah Basin show how pore pressure response to barometric and earth tide loading provides in situ specific storage values that can replace assumed values in models. A new technique for short-term monitoring of response to small stresses in low permeability formations is highlighted. And a unique example from the Sydney Basin shows where specific storage values can change in response to mining stresses.

Leading practice investigations now more commonly include environmental tracer techniques. An advanced technique is highlighted that enables stable isotope analysis in moist sediments and rock core and comparison with rainwater and groundwater values. A high resolution vertical profile of stable isotopes through the Hawkesbury sandstone shows the critical role of thin layers of cemented sandstone barriers to flow.

Several ongoing technical challenges with groundwater and mining are highlighted that require more strategic baseline monitoring, a variety of conceptual models and adoption of leading practices that are commensurate with the risks of the project.

Please RSVP to:

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