

Plenary Speaker

Promoting Sustainable Development in the Minerals Industry: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach

Professor David Brereton

Director, Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining
Sustainable Minerals Institute
The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Abstract: A major challenge for the Australian and global minerals industry is to translate broad principles of sustainable development into improved practices at the operational level. This requires not only technological innovation, but also the application of multi-disciplinary perspectives to promote new ways of thinking, organising and managing.

This paper will outline how the University of Queensland's Sustainable Minerals Institute (SMI) is tackling this challenge on both the research and teaching fronts. The SMI organisational framework brings together diverse research centres and disciplinary perspectives around the common theme of sustainable development. The paper will identify the opportunities – and challenges – that flow from this structure and reflect on the SMI's experience in engaging with the minerals industry on sustainability issues.

David Brereton is the inaugural Director of the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining (CSRMI) at the University of Queensland, a position which he took up in late 2001. The Centre, which is part of the University's Sustainable Minerals Institute, has been established to conduct research on social issues relevant to the mining industry and help build the capacity of the industry to manage these issues more effectively.

From 1993 to 2001 Professor Brereton was Director of Research and Prevention at the Queensland Criminal Justice Commission. His previous positions include Principal Consultant to the Law Reform Commission of Victoria and Senior Lecturer in Legal Studies at La Trobe University. Dr Brereton is a graduate of the University of Melbourne and holds a PhD in Political Science from Stanford University.