

**Australian Geoscience Council Inc.**

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**The Council of Earth Science Societies in Australia**



# **Overview of the Australian Geoscience Council and our new strategic plan**

Australian Geoscience Council

# WHAT IS THE AGC?



# Your representatives

- The Australian Geoscience Council (established in 1995) has eight major Australian geoscientific societies as its Members
- The Presidents (or their nominees) of these organisations represent most of Australia's geoscientists (about 7,000)
- As the peak body the AGC can represent industry, government and academic professionals in the fields of geology, geophysics, geochemistry, minerals, petroleum, hydrogeology, environmental and all other aspects of geoscience.

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AUSTRALIAN  
INSTITUTE OF  
GEOSCIENTISTS



Australian Society of  
Exploration Geophysicists



**PESA**  
Petroleum Exploration  
Society of Australia



The Australian Geoscience Information  
Association Inc.



# Who is on the AGC?

- President (2014–2015): **Dr Bill Shaw**
- Past President: **Dr Neil Williams**
- Chairmen: **Dr Jon Hronsky**
- Treasurer: **Ms Miriam Way**
- Secretary: **Dr Ron Hackney**
  
- 13 representatives from 8 member societies.

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# STRATEGIC PLAN 2015–2020



# A Vision of Geoscience in Australia

## VISION

We will raise the profile of Geoscience to be pre-eminent in Australia and to be recognised as one of the great fields of general science with Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

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# What is the AGC?

## VISION

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## MISSION

The role of the AGC is to foster close relations between Geoscience learned societies and professional associations in Australia and to take concerted action for promoting earth sciences and their applications in the best interests of both our constituent organisations and the nation as a whole.

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# Strategic Plan 2015–2020

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## STRATEGIC PILLARS

**GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION**  
(Awareness & Training)

**GEOSCIENCE ADVOCACY**  
(Listening & Representation)

**GEOSCIENCE SUSTAINABILITY**  
(Ensuring Long-term Support)

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# 1. Geoscience Education (1)

- Provide support for:
  - Primary School Geoscience
  - Secondary School Geoscience
    - Inaugural Australian Earth and Environmental Science Olympiad
    - Teacher Earth Science Education Program (TESEP)
    - Earth Science Western Australia (ESWA)
  - Tertiary Geoscience education
    - Australasian University Geoscience Educators Network (AUGEN)
    - AGC/AAS Travel Fund for Young Geoscientists.



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# 1. Geoscience Education (2)

- Provide support for public education about Geoscience
  - the National Rock Garden in Canberra
  - identify/promote Geoscience champions as National Treasures
  - initiate a “geoscience day” to recognise geoscience achievements
- Support a policy framework for Geoscience education
  - collect and archive survey data on the status of Geoscience education at appropriate time intervals
  - make survey results and analysis available to policy makers
    - Powell (2013), Australian Geoscience Tertiary Education Profile 2012
    - Cohen (2014), Recent levels of ARC geoscience funding, TAG.



## 2. Geoscience Advocacy



- Proactive advocacy on key issues
  - endorse and promote the national UNCOVER initiative
  - raise awareness of Geoscience issues at Federal and State levels
    - for training, employment and research funding
    - using leverage from our membership representation and surveys
  - initiate a touring speaker series for public lectures
- Assist member organisations to communicate with the broader community
  - retain a media advisor to be used by the AGC on behalf of membership groups when required
  - utilise Science and Technology Australia to promote Geoscience.



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# 3. Geoscience Sustainability

- Facilitate synergy between member organisations
  - provide a forum for sharing of issues and information
  - explore and facilitate opportunities for resource sharing
  - provide leadership, opportunities and forums for furthering the interests of geoscience in Australia
  - coordinate communication on third party funding requests
- Promote alignment with key stakeholder groups
  - young professionals, women in geoscience, disadvantaged groups
  - geoscience projects in developing countries
    - IUGS “Resourcing Future Generations” initiative
  - collaboration with other overseas volunteer schemes such as Engineers Without Borders.

# Our financing is sound

- Funds derived from 34<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress in Brisbane (2012) are being invested strategically to support Australian geoscience
- Funds directly derived by the AGC are allocated to:
  - specific initiatives (tactics) outlined in the Strategic Plan
  - about \$500,000 will be spent over the next 5 years
- AGC/AAS Young Geoscientists Travel Fund
  - managed by a joint committee of the AGC and AAS
  - about \$30,000/year is being earned in interest
  - about 5 will be awarded every year.

# AGC and Geoscience

AGC is a path for communication providing:

- a bridge between all our Geoscience societies
  - all disciplines, all sectors of the economy
- assistance in supporting and promoting specific initiatives
  - UNCOVER
  - support for Early & Mid-career Geoscientists
  - the National Groundwater Strategic Framework (2015-2015)
  - the AAS National Committee of Earth Sciences is formulating a new decadal (10 year) plan to which the AGC is contributing
- a point of contact and links to government and the wider community.

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# AGC and Geoscientists

The AGC provides a focus to support

- Opportunities to promote careers in geoscience
  - support for Geoscience education at all levels
  - provision of the AGC/AAS Young Geoscientist Travel Fund
- Collation of data that backs up arguments around funding for Geoscience training and research
- Co-ordinated representation for geoscientists at the highest levels in government, industry and academia through the AAS and STA, as well as through direct contact, communication and lobbying by, and on behalf of, our Member organisations.

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**THANK YOU**

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