



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.

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.

The AGC comprises:

- Association of Applied Geochemists – Australian Branch (AAG)
- Australian Geoscience Information Association (AGIA)
- Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG)
- Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (ASEG)
- Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM)
- Geological Society of Australia (GSA)
- International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)
- Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia (PESA).

THE STRATEGIC PILLARS OF THE AGC

1 GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION (Awareness and Training)

1.1 Support public education about Geoscience

Promote Geoscience literacy, professional standing, quality of science, raise profile

Actively work with other Geoscience organisations internationally to coordinate the promotion of Geoscience globally

Specific initiatives:

- Support and use the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)
- Promote the use of Geologist Day in Australia (e.g. 1 April is a national holiday in Russia)
- Support the National Rock Garden (NRG)
- Identify and promote Geoscience champions as National Treasures

1.2 Support Primary School Geoscience

Specific initiatives:

- Identify and support outstanding programmes and their champions

1.3 Support Secondary School Geoscience

Encourage research into new models for Geoscience courses

Specific initiatives:

- Support the Australian Earth Science Olympiad through patronage (eg engagement of an annual lecturer)
- Teacher Earth Science Education Program (TESEP)
- Earth Science Western Australia (ESWA)
- GeoEdLink
- The Rock Set for teaching
- Support the use of the Geoscience Australia Education Centre as a resource
- Initiate "Mawson Day" – a national day for recognition of earth science achievements in secondary schools

1.4 Support Tertiary Geoscience education

Specific initiatives:

- Manage the AAS/AGC Travel Fund for young geoscientists
- Australasian University Geoscience Educators Network (AUGEN)
- Michael Roach's Virtual Field Sites

1.5 Support continuing education in Geoscience

Specific initiatives:

- Encourage communication, consistency and mutual support between Member organisations for continuing professional development of all people working in Geoscience and Geoscience education.

1.6 Support a policy framework for Geoscience education in Australia

Specific initiatives:

- Collect survey data on the status of Geoscience education at appropriate time intervals
- Make survey results and analysis widely available to relevant policy makers

2 GEOSCIENCE ADVOCACY (Listening and Representation)

2.1 Proactive advocacy on key issues

Endorse and promote the national UNCOVER initiative

Raise awareness at State and Federal level regarding Geoscience training, employment and research funding issues as they arise. Gain leverage from member surveys

Initiate touring speaker series for public lectures

2.2 Assist Member organisations to communicate with the broader community

Retain a media advisor who can be used by the AGC on behalf of membership groups when required

Develop a policy for communication of issues that considers:

- Apolitical representation
- Advocacy to Governments
- Raising public awareness
- Facilitation / Coordination / Leadership
- Social media

Use Science and Technology Australia (STA) as a forum to promote Geoscience

Identify spokespersons with relevant expertise in Geoscience who can provide objective commentary on identified issues such as:

- Climate change
- Long-term national water security
- Dryland salinity and soil loss
- Geotourism
- Fracking and Coal Seam Gas
- Long term mineral resource security

3 GEOSCIENCE SUSTAINABILITY (Ensuring Long-term Support)

3.1 Facilitate synergy between Member organisations

Provide a forum for the sharing of issues and information between member organisations

Identify and develop leverage points of Member Organisations

Explore and facilitate opportunities for resource sharing between member organisations

Provide leadership, opportunities and forums for Member Organisations to contribute to furthering the interests of Geoscience in Australia

Improve connections and support between the AGC, Member Organisations and Academia (student groups, university departments and staff)

Coordinate communication about third party funding requests between Member Organisations and AGC

3.2 Governance of the AGC

Issues that could be considered:

- Council representation

- Fiduciary and statutory responsibility (incorporated body, Board of Directors, voluntary organisation)
- Roles of President, Chairman, Secretary
- Constitution of the AGC
- Frequency of meetings of Council and Executive
- Role of Affiliates and Associations including additional organisation Members
- Representation, decision making, engagement, reporting
- Website content and updates
- Insurances and limitations
- Ensure the viability of the AGC (by appropriately funding volunteer workers).

3.3 Ensure the viability of the AGC

Maintain the financial resources above a sustainable level

Develop a regular income stream for the AGC:

- Underwrite key joint conferences and sharing in their profits
- Define an appropriate investment and distribution strategy

3.4 Promote alignment with key stakeholder groups in our community

Initiatives that could be supported:

- Young Professionals
- Women in Geoscience
- Other special interest groups (indigenous / disabled / elderly)
- Geoscience projects in developing countries such as the IUGS Resourcing Future Generations initiative (RFG)
- Collaboration with other overseas volunteer schemes such as Engineers Without Borders.

ACRONYMS

AAS	Australian Academy of Science
AUGEN	Australasian University Geoscience Educators Network
ESWA	Earth Science Western Australia
IUGS	International Union of Geological Sciences
NRG	National Rock Garden
RFG	Resourcing Future Generations initiative
STA	Science and Technology Australia
TESEP	Teacher Earth Science Education Program