



# BHP headlines 2014 Explorers

This year's South Australian Exploration and Mining Conference is set to be the biggest in the event's 11-year history, according to organiser Kevin Wills.

Hosted by the SA branches of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists, Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists, the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, Geoscience Australia and the South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy, the conference has grown rapidly over the last decade.

"We've had this amazing trend of more and more delegates each year," Wills told **Paydirt**. "Like any other state, South Australia has experienced some ups and downs in the exploration space but the event has always continued moving forward."

Affectionately known as "Explorers", the conference acts as end-of-year get-together for the SA resources community and an opportunity to assess what has been going on throughout the year at some of the State's most intriguing projects.

This year the programme features presentations from a diverse range of companies, covering all of the State's exploration hot-spots.

"We always try to include topical presentations and identify the projects which are of

most interest to the audience," Wills said.

The conference will be opened by the State's Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy Tom Koutsantonis.

SA's junior sector forms the bedrock of both the State's exploration sector and the Explorers programme with the likes of Musgrave Minerals Ltd, Investigator Resources Ltd, Trafford Resources Ltd and Adelaide Resources Ltd all set to give talks.

The vibrant SA graphite scene will also be well represented with presentations from Lincoln Minerals Ltd and Valence Industries Ltd.

Larger companies do not shun the conference either with Oz Minerals Ltd set to give separate presentations on its two SA projects, Prominent Hill and Carrapateena, while Iluka Resources Ltd and Arrium Ltd will also give updates on their progress in the State.

For Wills, the biggest coups are the presence of Belgian base metals giant Nyrstar to discuss the upgrade of its Port Pirie smelter and BHP Billiton Ltd's principal geometallurgist Kathy Enrig who will give a first ever presentation on operations at Olympic Dam.

"Kathy has always been a big supporter of the conference and has spoken before on the exploration aspects of Olympic Dam but this will be the first presentation on operations

there," he said. "I think this will generate a lot of interest, particularly given the ongoing question of expansion plans there."

Although largely catered towards professional geoscientists, Wills said conference organisers had tried to expand its reach in recent years.

"We have made a concerted effort in recent years to attract different stakeholders. This year we expect to see teachers and students from TAFE's, more investors and more representatives from the service industry."

However, at its heart remains the opportunity for geologists, geophysicists and mining engineers to join their peers for a day of high-quality papers and networking.

"There are a lot of opportunities for networking and I think with a lot of unemployed people out there at the moment, there will be plenty who take the opportunity to find out where the work is happening," Wills said.

The SA Explorers will take place at the Adelaide Convention Centre on Friday, December 5. For more details on the conference visit [www.saexplorers.com.au](http://www.saexplorers.com.au)