

Paste 2024

Proceedings of the 26th International Conference on Paste, Thickened and Filtered Tailings

16–18 April 2024 | Melbourne, Australia



EDITORS Andy Fourie & David Reid

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Editors

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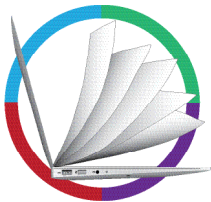
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Preface

Since the last Paste conference held in Australia in 2021, a large number of mining companies have reported on their self-assessed conformance with the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management (GISTM). Achieving conformance with GISTM has required significant evaluation of previously accepted tailings management strategies, often resulting in a determination to evaluate alternative technologies and strategies. This is where the possibilities of high-density thickened and/or filtered tailings options have often become viable.

Many of the papers in these Proceedings of Paste 2024 describe lessons learned during implementation of thickened or filtered tailings solutions. This year sees an increasing percentage of papers dealing with surface disposal using these new technologies, with examples provided from around the world. Sharing these valuable experiences is particularly opportune as the mining industry is experiencing increasing headwinds at present, with sharper focus on operating costs likely in the short to medium term. Tailings management professionals may increasingly be faced with challenges justifying higher costs sometimes associated with high-density thickened or filtered tailings, while at the same time driving down the potential risks associated with adopting a 'business as usual' approach. Real world examples of what works (and what does not work) are thus of immense value.

Another clear focus of the papers in this year's conference proceedings is that related to underground backfilling using tailings. This tailings management option is increasingly being viewed through the lens of reducing risks associated with surface deposition of tailings, rather than solely focusing on improved underground operational strategies. Sharing experiences between the underground applications and surface management of high-density tailings promises to be a valuable aspect of Paste 2024.

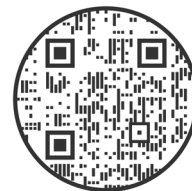
On behalf of my co-editor, David Reid, I express sincere thanks to everyone who played a part in assembling these proceedings. This includes the authors, the technical and editorial committees, the reviewers, and the staff at the Australian Centre for Geomechanics (ACG).

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Professor Andy Fourie
Paste 2024 Conference Co-editor and Co-chair



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