



MINED - YOUR BUSINESS

NZ MINERALS FORUM

The New Zealand Minerals Forum 2019, held in Dunedin on 27-28 May, was a resounding success.

Delegate feedback, both anecdotally and through the online survey, was overwhelmingly positive and supportive.

The 100 or so protesters might also claim success because they certainly delayed some delegates from getting into the venue on the opening morning, and national media salivated as protesters protested and delegates struggled to get through the blockade and into the Forum.

We want open debate about many of the complex issues that were aired during the Forum and, with some irony, the protests helped us meet that objective.

Inside the (fortunately well sound proofed) Dunedin Town Hall, the event showcased the sector to stakeholders and investors well, and informed minerals delegates with several weighty issues discussed and knowledge shared.

One of the main positives from the presence of the protesters was the opportunity it provided us to give profile in the media to the issues confronting the sector.

While many outside the Town Hall had doubtless made up their minds, it emphasises how Straterra and the industry as a whole still has a lot of work to do to explain to the public at large the role and contribution of mining to society.

It is unfortunate that carbon emissions and mining generally have become conflated in the minds of the activists and much of the public. Not only is mining a relatively low emitter, the minerals sector will be

central to the transition to a low carbon future (windmills, solar panels, electric vehicles and batteries – all require large quantities of minerals.) This point was well made by some of the media covering the event and so we can be thankful that the Forum and the protestors antics helped us get these messages out.

Contrary to the impression of the protestors, the Minerals Forum was not a coal summit – 11 percent of the more than 300 delegates worked for coal companies; and only four of the 44 presentations were directly about coal (with another four covering topics such as transitioning out of coal, and coal and climate change).

We had around 60 speakers and facilitators who addressed the myriad of issues facing our sector including technology, the environment, climate

continued on page 2



MINERALS FORUM FACTS

The Forum was a big hit with attendees. Here's some sample feedback:

"My first Forum. It's an important cog in the transfer of information/knowledge into the mining sector and its place in the economy - materials and energy."

"Keep engaging in the meaty issues!"

"One of the better, more relevant conferences I have been to. Looking forward to next year."

"Networking and concentration of industry was a big draw card."

"The best minerals sector event that I've been to in New Zealand."

Over 97 percent of survey respondents rated the Forum as good, very good or excellent. Of the 320 attendees, 18 percent were chief executives, managing directors or general managers. The forum attracted delegates from many fields -- only 24 percent worked directly for mining companies.

And it's not surprising delegates were so engaged, informed and entertained. They were treated to:

- 60 Speakers
- 39 presentations
- 5 panels (including the popular fireside chat)

NZ MINERALS FORUM *continued from page 1*

change, energy transition, health and safety, operations, social and societal challenges.

The climate change debate was well attended and included a contribution from IPCC taskforce scientist Dave Frame and Canterbury University Engineering academic Susan Krumdieck, who both provided an independent perspective on the future of coal.

We were fortunate to have significant ministerial involvement. Andrew Little attended the VIP dinner the evening before. David Parker opened the Forum (along with Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull), Megan Woods provided a pre-recorded message and Shane Jones was part of the political panel, Fireside Chat on the Wednesday afternoon along with National Party energy and resources spokesman Jonathan Young.

The Fireside Chat was one of the highlights. Unfortunately, Kevin Hague had pulled out only days before concerned that his presence would be interpreted by antimining organisations as a departure from shared policy positions. His alternative view would have added significant value to the Forum.

Other highlights included the Mining Leaders Panel on new technologies, smart practices and new markets. This was a constructive discussion which prompted plenty of audience engagement and questions from the floor.

Next year's Forum is to be held in Hamilton's Claudelands Arena, in conjunction with AusIMM.

MINERALS FORUM AWARD WINNERS

World-leading examples of environmental management, community initiatives, innovation and health & safety were recognised and celebrated at the New Zealand Minerals Forum Awards.

"The winners – in fact all of the finalists – highlighted the reality of how our sector operates here in New Zealand," said Chris Baker. "Mining opponents portray us as behind the times, with no regard for the environment or giving back to the communities we operate with. These awards show that simply isn't the case. We can be justifiably proud of what we achieve on a daily basis."



OceanaGold took out two awards, for environmental management and community initiative, recognising operational excellence at its two major New Zealand sites – Macraes and Waihi.

The Environmental Management award was given after the company launched comprehensive studies to determine what were safe levels of sulphate in water at Macraes, where the rare Taieri flathead galaxiid native fish is found. The research showed the 400 grams per cubic metre of water limit that the council had initially proposed could be safely increased, leading to a change in the resource consent conditions imposed.

OceanaGold's Community Initiative award recognised its long-running community outreach programme in Waihi. An education centre in the Waikato town hosts more than 6,000 students and teachers each year. The programme also features a substantial community sponsorship and donation programme, and regular community outreach and meetings.

Bathurst Resources won the Innovation award for new practices at its Canterbury coal mine which more than quadrupled output. The company used tailored plans to overcome the challenges of the mine's steeply dipped and narrow coal seams. Other processing innovations removed the need for coal washing, and mobile plant was upgraded to improve output.

McDonnell Dowell was the Health and Safety winner. The company used historical data to better understand rockfall triggers, such as rainfall, blasting and earthquakes. This enabled them to predict rockfall more accurately during the rebuild of the Sumner Road above Lyttelton harbour, and tailor work programmes at times of low risk. The initiative helped the company record a zero total recordable injury frequency rate.

