

## **Reconciling Competitiveness with Concern: Embedding company sustainability performance within national sustainability**

**Authors:** Leah Mason<sup>1</sup>, Damien Giurco<sup>1</sup>, Reza Memory<sup>1</sup>, Gavin Mudd<sup>2</sup>, Timothy Prior<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology, Sydney, <sup>2</sup>Department of Civil Engineering, Monash University

### **ABSTRACT**

This presentation/paper provides an overview of sustainability research being undertaken to establish a strategy for securing long-term national benefit from Australia's mineral resources. This research aims to explore the use of environmental and social indicators as part of a long-term strategy for improving both the sustainability of Australia's mineral industry and the long-term benefit derived by Australia's economy.

It looks at the unique position occupied by Australia as a significant producer of key global mineral commodities, and examines the possibility that this role could be undermined by a failure to align the economic benefits of miners with the economic, social and environmental benefits required by a national community.

It explores the potential utility of extending the indicators used to assess company performance under the Global Reporting Initiative to a national framework for understanding sustainability. It argues that better alignment between systems for monitoring and evaluating progress towards economic, social and environmental sustainability can help nations meet the challenge of improving economic, environmental and social sustainability while developing natural resources.

It concludes that aligning national and company benefit under a program of economic, social, environmental indicators will have sustainability benefits for a very large range of stakeholders over a longer time frame than is currently possible.

### **This paper presented at:**

Second International Congress on Sustainability Science and Engineering, in Tucson, Arizona. 9-12 January, 2011