



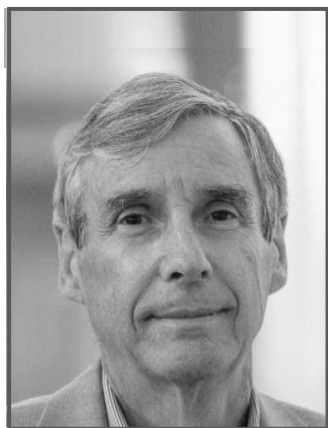
# Group Tailings Queensland

**Date:** 28 October 2024

[Register Here](#)

**Time:** 4:30 – 9:00 pm

**Venue:** Four Points by Sheraton Brisbane, 99 Mary Street Brisbane QLD 4000



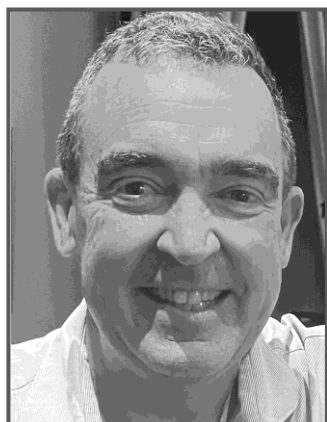
**Dr Paul Somerville**

*Principal Engineering  
Seismologist at AECOM  
California, United States*



**Dr Bing Wang**

*Principal Project Support  
Senior Advisor at Stantec  
Vancouver, British Columbia*



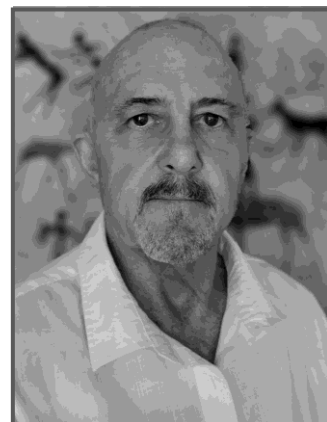
**Rob Mcilwraith**

*Director  
Axter Australia*



**Dr. Charmaine Cheah**

*Senior Engineer  
HUESKER Australia*



**Gary Matthews**

*Engineering Business  
Manager (ANZ)  
Solmax*

## **Dr Paul Somerville**

### **Presentation Title: The Onshore Relocation of the 1918 Bundaberg Earthquake, and Recent Updates of the Geoscience Australia National Seismic Hazard Assessment**

**Bio:** Dr Paul Somerville is Principal Engineering Seismologist at AECOM and has extensive experience in estimating seismic hazards for dams in Australia and New Zealand. He was born in Armidale, NSW, Australia and received his B.Sc. degree in Geophysics from the University of New England. He received his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Geophysics at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. He spent two years as a Visiting Research Fellow at the Earthquake Research Institute, University of Tokyo. He is Past President of the Australian Earthquake Engineering Society and participated in the revision of the 2019 ANCOLD Seismic Guidelines. He is currently a member of the committee revising Australian Standard AS 1170.4: Earthquake Actions in Australia.

## **Dr. Wang**

### **Presentation Title: Lessons Learned on Recent Tailings Dam Failures**

**Bio:** Dr. Wang has 40 years of professional expertise in tailings and water managements with strong tailings storage facility operation per MAC Guide and GISTM, construction and design experience per CDA, ANCOLD, ICOLD Guidelines, backed by superior academic and research background in all stages of life of mine from scoping, prefeasibility and feasibility studies, to detailed design and EPCM as well as construction, operation, instrumentation and performance monitoring, and to final closure planning, rehabilitation, monitoring, government liaison, regulatory approval, corporate and GISTM compliances, OMS Manual and EPRP, as well as implementation of mitigation and remedial measures, under various climatic conditions from permafrost, desert, to tropical rainforest settings over 25 different countries. His specific duties involve ITRB roles, peer / independent technical reviews, audit, evaluations, due diligence, management of projects, government liaison, regulatory approval, risk analyses and mitigation, and remedial measures. Dr. Wang has significant experience with cyclone sand production and sand dam construction, tailings and water management projects, including conventional, thickened, paste, as well as filtered and dry stacking disposal of tailings, dam safety inspections and reviews, cost estimation, construction drawings, technical specifications, and CQA / CQC supervisions. He also carried out analytical assessment and modelling of hydrotechnical structures for detailed stability, liquefaction potential assessment, static and dynamic deformation, FMEA, dam break analyses, seismic response, thermal effect, and groundwater flow evaluations.

## **Rob Mcilwraith**

**Bio:** Rob Mcilwraith is a civil engineer and company director who has 34 years of experience in a wide range of civil engineering fields. His experience includes consulting engineering and manufacturing of specialist products for civil engineering, mining and environmental protection. Rob has travelled to and been involved in civil engineering and mining projects in more than 30 countries around the world. His special focus is on Coletanche heavy-duty, reinforced bitumen composite geomembranes used in tailings dams, process water ponds, canals, environmental protection and capping of contaminated land. Coletanche BGMs have been used extensively in some of Australia's largest tailings storage facilities and many large TSFs around the world.

## **Dr. Charmaine Cheah**

**Bio:** Charmaine joins HUESKER Australia forming an essential part of the team as the Senior Engineer following 5-year period at the engineering department at HUESKER's headquarters in Germany. Her expertise encompasses the use of geosynthetics in various applications, including erosion and scour protection of coastal and river works, landfill liners, longwall recovery for underground mining and dewatering tube system. Committed to promoting sustainable practices that enhances project efficiency and protect the environment, she strives to find innovative and environmentally friendly solutions for engineering challenges.

## **Gary Matthews**

**Bio:** Gary Matthews is the Solmax Geosynthetics Engineering Business Manager for the ANZ region. Throughout his career, Gary has worked extensively in the engineering sector, including consulting, contracting, technical sales, and business development roles. He has a solid grounding in the use and application of geosynthetics in engineering.

With environmental regulations increasing the focus on closing tailings ponds, especially in the mining, chemical, and utilities sectors, Gary will discuss the challenges and solutions associated with their closure. Tailings ponds contain soft deposits that restrict construction access, making closure problematic. Geosynthetics provide a cost-effective and efficient capping solution, allowing lightweight equipment to operate without pretreatment. Additionally, innovative methods and successful case studies demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach.

# Queensland Tailings Group

4:30-5:30 pm

Welcome Drinks and Networking

5:30-5:50 pm

Rob Mcilwraith (Axter) Presentation

5:50-6:10 pm

Dr. Charmaine Cheah (HUESKER) Presentation

6:10-6:30 pm

Gary Matthews (Solmax) Presentation

6:30-7:15 pm

Dr Paul Somerville (AECOM) Presentation

7:15-8:00 pm

Dr Bing Wang (Stantec) Presentation

8:00-9:00 pm

Q&A, Drinks and Networking

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