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Queensland geologist recognised in awards

Queensland geologist and AusIMM Director Alison Keogh has been recognised in the Queensland Government's Our Women Our State Awards.

Alison, the founding chair of the Women in Mining and Resources Queensland (WIMARQ) voluntary organisation, received a highly commended award in the Industry and Business section.

The commendation recognised her work in founding, developing and leading the WIMARQ network over the past five years.

Founded in 2004, WIMARQ coordinates networking events, which have been identified as an important tool in the retention of women in the male-dominated resources sector.

The events are strongly supported by Queensland's leading resources companies and their representative body the Queensland Resources Council (QRC).

Inspirational speakers have shared their stories with many employees, managers and aspiring leaders at events in Brisbane, Moranbah, Mount Isa, Rockhampton and Townsville.

In addition WIMARQ and QRC have collaborated to create the successful Resources Awards for Women and more recently hosted directorship training in conjunction with The AusIMM and Women on Boards.

And, WIMARQ recently launched a new website with the assistance of the QRC under its Women in Resources Action Plan.

The site provides women in the resources sector the opportunity to create 'virtual' networks, which is particularly important for women living and working in regional and remote areas. The site was launched by the Minister for Women Karen Struthers.

'WIMARQ was set up to support talented people in our industry and help attract, foster and retain more semi-skilled, skilled and professional women,' said Alison.

'The resources sector has experienced a skills shortage and wants to tap into a large pool of new talent to ensure we have the best and brightest innovators and leaders now and into the future.'

'I am proud to be a part of a vibrant industry with its tremendous range of career opportunities.

'I am inspired by the sector's innovative technology and positive, solutions-focused people.

'Our industry is a world leader and a pivotal contributor to the Queensland and Australian economies.'

As Chair of The AusIMM's Sustainability Committee, Alison believes that people are critical to the industry's future.

'Strong leadership, innovation and strategic change management are more important than ever to secure our industry's place in a carbon-constrained future,' said Alison.

'We continue to strive to retain the best talent to implement smart and efficient solutions and to successfully navigate future changes in our industry.'

QRC's Chief Executive Michael Roche paid tribute to Alison's passion for the industry and her devotion to encouraging women to enter and remain in the resources sector.

'The WIMARQ network has been pivotal in the QRC's aim to increase the proportion of women working in our sector in non-traditional roles to at least 12 percent by 2020,' said Mr Roche.

'She is an outstanding role model and ambassador for our industry and has helped pave the way for young women entering the sector,' he said.

'With our sector set for a long period of growth, we can't afford to be missing out on the talents of women and the work of people such as Alison will go a long way to ensuring that women know about the exciting career opportunities our sector has for them, and that they enter an industry that understands their needs.'



Alison is pictured at the awards ceremony with QRC Deputy Chief Executive Greg Lane.

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Email: [email WIMARQ](mailto:email@wimarq.com.au)

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