



Mine and Water Interactions

Global Water Summit

Blair Douglas
Practice Lead Global Water Management and Mine Closure



Water Risks

Mines can experience too little water



Water Risks

Mines can encounter too much water



Water Risks

Mining can introduce an unacceptable change to water resources



Mining and Water Interactions

Mining and water interactions occur due to:

- Water supplies
- Mine dewatering
- Tailings and water dams
- Flood and surface water diversion
- Wastewater and excess water discharges.

Primary considerations:

- Water is a strategic enabler and a significant risk if not proactively managed.
- Mining has a large disturbance footprint.
- Water can become a focal point for broader social and ESG issues.

How do we manage water:

- Follow a risk-based approach.
- Manage at a catchment scale and adopt context-based targets.
- Embed water into the long term mine planning process.
- Engage and work with others outside the gate.
- Consider closure and water designs from the start.
- Technology focus: reduce water consumption and decrease demand.

