

# SYMPOSIUM PAPER

## HIGH RATE TAILINGS THICKENER UPGRADE AND AUTOMATION AT SBCL

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### ABSTRACT

Thickener performance and availability is critical to the routine operation of any CHPP. Generally limited levels of automation exist in thickener installations as conventional thickener technology utilises significant residence times to complete the required removal of particles from the plants water circuits. High rate thickener systems result in reduced particle residence times potentially requiring more frequent operator intervention as the feed material or plant conditions vary. This paper describes the experiences of SBCL where the existing two (2) tailings thickener system has been upgraded to a single high rate device and the subsequent automation which became necessary to optimise the installations performance and availability, as well as minimising the level of routine operator involvement.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

METALLURGICAL  
CONSULTANTS

#### Reference:

Densley, D., & Meyers, A. (1997). High Rate Tailings Thickener Upgrade and Automation at SBCL. *The Forth Annual Central Queensland Symposium*. Emerald: ACPS.