**Flinders University**

**Citation for the award of the degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa***

**Dr Kathy Ehrig**

Dr Ehrig holds a PhD in geology from the University of California, Berkeley (1991) and a Bachelor of Science in geology from the California State University at Fresno (1984). After Dr Ehrig completed her PhD on copper mineralisation, she joined Western Mining Corporation (WMC) as a research geologist at Olympic Dam in 1992.

Dr Ehrig has spent her whole career as a research geometallurgist working on the Olympic Dam deposit for WMC, now BHP Billiton and has been based both at Roxby Downs and in Adelaide. Part of her role over the last 24 years has been problem solving to improve metal recovery at Olympic Dam. A major part of her role, over the last two decades, has been studying and unravelling the complex mineralogy and geology of Olympic Dam to understand its genesis.

As Principal Geometallurgist she leads the team that developed the geometallurgical models and metallurgical performance predictors for the entire deposit, including predictors of mineral abundances based on drill core assays.

Her work has also consisted of optimising the geometallurgy models for use in short, medium and long-term mine planning and developing geometallurgy testing programs to be used in exploration.

The Olympic Dam’s copper, uranium, gold and silver deposits are probably South Australia’s most valuable economic metal resource. It is truly a world class deposit being amongst the largest uranium, copper and gold resources found on the planet. The deposit has been mined for 30 years and can be expected to make a continuing contribution to the State’s economy for over a century.

Dr Ehrig has discovered more about the geology, mineralogy and genesis of the Olympic Dam deposit than any other person. In the last five years she has published a number of landmark papers on the Olympic Dam deposit, and is eagerly sought as a speaker at international conferences on ore deposits. It is a mark of her dedication to the understanding of Olympic Dam that she has spent her entire career working and researching this amazingly complex site.

She is a member of the Society of Economic Geologists, Geochemical Society, Geological Society of America, European Association of Geochemistry, Mineralogical Society of America, Mineralogical Association of Canada, and Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.

The award of the degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa* recognises the intellectual rigour of Dr Ehrig’s contributions to understanding the Olympic Dam deposit over the last 24 years.