



The Leichhardt Award 2021 | Citation

Dick Sanders

Summary of Original Contributions to Coal Geology and Related Disciplines in Queensland

Dick Sanders was trained as a geologist and has worked in numerous technical, superintending and management roles in coal quality laboratories across Australia across his 60+ years in the industry. In 1987, Dick founded QCC (Quality Coal Consulting, later QCC Resources) and acted as Director and Executive Consultant.

The contributions that Dick has made to the industry in general include:

- Collaboration with Arthur le Page on some of the early wet pretreatment work that was the forerunner of today's techniques that are fundamental to reliable plant design
- Carried out pilot plant trials of many types of equipment and coal types in his stint at ACIRL Maitland
- In the early 1970s, contributed to the development of blending techniques at the Port of Newcastle being part of the original push to improve sampling in the Port of Newcastle and was a co-founder of 'The Port of Newcastle Sampling Study Group'
- Carrying out many ACARP R&D projects on coal quality and washability contributions to many Australian Standards, including the landmark guide to the use of bore cores in the assessment of coal deposits (AS2519) National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) director and assessor Mines Rescue work; trained from 1973-84.

The 2021 Leichhardt Award has been awarded in recognition of being a leading coal quality expert in working with Ken Preston to recognize the importance of in situ moisture and density in assessing coal reserves, with the Preston & Sanders formula now part of recognised procedures in this area.

Nominated by: Chris McMahon | Seconded by: Marko Seppanen