

Natural Resources Forum ESG Week 2021**Panel 4.2: Environment, Community, and Water Management****Panellists:**

Moderator: James Bellin, Principal Hydrogeologist, SRK Consulting

- Dawn Brock, Manager, ICMM
- Daria Grigoreva, Director, Sustainability, Polyus
- Michelle Lawrence, COO, Kropz plc
- Jed Youngs, Practice Lead Water Stewardship, BHP

During this session, experts from the mining sector explored the importance of water management as a critical factor for ESG, and different challenges that companies may face in various geographies. Jed Youngs, Practice Lead Water Stewardship, said that BHP has operations in areas where water resources are scarce and where there is an excess of water.

The panellists agreed that a “one size fits all” approach does not work in water management and Daria Grigoreva, Sustainability Director at Polyus, stressed the importance of risk assessments in tackling the climate change. Polyus’ risk assessment showed that permafrost is not a critical issue for the company, whilst forest fires are, she said. Michelle Lawrence, COO at Kropz plc, said that Kropz’s impact is greater than previously understood and this is a result of the company’s knowledge base.

Despite the variety of problems faced in water management, meaningful guidance is not only possible but crucial in this area, the panellists said. Dawn Brock of ICMM talked about the importance of transparency for waste management. She stressed that water management has key material risks for society. ICMM has published its Practical Guide to Consistent Water Reporting and is constantly reviewing them, she added. Daria Grigoreva said that ICMM’s principles helped Polyus to provide meaningful reporting for international stakeholders, who are not familiar with Russian legislation.

During the Q&A session the panellists also discussed how water as an asset can add value to operations. For example, Polyus extensively uses hydropower as it switched 90% of its energy consumption to renewables.

