

Consultants Society Forum 2026: The Evolving Consultant – Human Insights on Emerging Technology

Speaker: Matthew Betts, General Manager Engineering - Rio Tinto Projects, Growth & Innovation

Topic: A technical framework outlining the four critical human domains that determine technology performance

Abstract: Emerging automation, optimisation, and digital-operations technologies are reshaping mining, but measurable value still depends on disciplined human decision-making. This keynote presents a technical framework outlining the four critical human domains that determine technology performance: constraint-aligned business-case definition, operationally grounded drivers for change, decision-grade data quality and cyber governance, and implementation pathways engineered for real-world variability.

Through case studies across the Rio Tinto Projects portfolio covering iron ore, copper, lithium and aluminium, the session demonstrates how technology and disciplined implementation can be converted into sustained throughput, recovery and productivity improvements. Attendees will leave with an understanding of how Rio Tinto's Project group uses assessment criteria and deployment models that reduce delivery risk, strengthen data integrity, and accelerate scalable, site-ready technology adoption.