

13 July 2026

INDEPENDENT TESTWORK CONFIRMS STRONG AUSPOZZ™ PERFORMANCE IN MINING APPLICATIONS

Zeotech Limited (ASX: ZEO, “Zeotech” or “the Company”) is pleased to report that independent test work undertaken by Sustainable Future by Design (“SFD”) has confirmed that AusPozz™, the Company’s high-performance metakaolin product, delivers improved technical performance and potential cost savings in underground cemented paste backfill (“CPB”) applications.

This test work was independently replicated on site by a globally significant underground mine operator, with results confirming the performance outcomes and conclusions.

The findings validate AusPozz™ as a technically robust supplementary cementitious material (“SCM”) enabling reduced binder consumption while maintaining or improving operational performance.

These results build on previously demonstrated benefits across a broad range of concrete applications at commercial scale, which also apply to mining operations.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Independent study validates AusPozz™ as a viable cement substitute in underground mining, demonstrating that 20% General Purpose Cement (“GP Cement”) replacement can reduce total binder consumption while maintaining required CPB performance.
- Critical early strength achieved in all plug mixes, reaching 100 kPa within 24 - 30 hours, supporting continuous backfilling operations and maintaining underground safety and mine productivity.
- Material strength improvements in bulk backfill, with AusPozz™ nearly doubling compressive strength at 7 and 28 days and delivering comparable or superior results at 10 - 20% lower binder levels.
- Improved workability with AusPozz™ was demonstrated through easier pumping and placement of CPB, an important performance requirement for underground mining operations.
- Potential for lower operating costs and improved mine stability, with reduced cement usage and stronger backfill contributing to enhanced geotechnical performance and reduced dilution risk.
- Demonstrated sustainability and broader application upside, with up to 25 - 40% carbon reduction identified and additional benefits confirmed in fibre-crete and cable bolt grout applications.

Zeotech Chief Executive Officer, James Marsh, commented:

“These results confirm that AusPozz™ can deliver immediate operational value in underground mining, particularly in cemented paste backfill, where cost, performance, and reliability are critical. The ability to reduce cement usage while maintaining early strength and enhancing long-term performance highlights a clear pathway to cost and sustainability benefits. Combining this with the demonstrated improvements to flow and pumpability presents a very compelling proposition to the underground mining sector.

This work supports the potential for a blended cement product incorporating AusPozz™ to provide a practical, scalable solution for one of Australia’s largest consumers of cementitious materials.”

Background

CPB is a critical component of underground mining and is widely used across Australia. CPB involves the placement of a cemented slurry, typically comprising tailings, water, and a cementitious binder, to provide ground support, control dilution, and allow for safe mining operations.

Its use enables higher ore recovery, improved geotechnical stability, and reduced surface tailings storage requirements, making it integral to both operational performance and environmental management in underground mines.

CPB is widely used globally and across Australia as a key ground support method in underground mining operations. Binder systems can represent up to 75% of CPB costs, with backfilling contributing up to 20% of total underground operating costs¹.

As a result, mining operators are actively seeking opportunities to reduce cement usage while maintaining required technical performance.

Independent Study

An independent study undertaken by SFD evaluated AusPozz™ as a 20% replacement for GP Cement across representative CPB mix designs, including both plug and body mixes, and demonstrated that its use enables a material reduction in total binder while maintaining required operational performance.

SFD reported that all Plug Mixes - high early-strength backfill used to seal and support the base of a stope - containing AusPozz™ achieved the critical early age strength requirement of 100 kPa at approximately 24 - 30 hours (Figure 1), enabling continuous backfilling operations. Plug mix is the most critical mix used in underground mining as it provides structural support, enhancing safety and mine cycle efficiency.

In the Body Mixes - bulk backfill used to fill the majority of the stope after the initial plug - AusPozz™ nearly doubled CPB strength at 7 and 28 days, while delivering comparable strength at a 20% total binder reduction (Figure 2). Body mix typically accounts for approximately 80 - 95% of total paste volumes.

¹ Australian Centre for Geomechanics (May 2026) - Optimising cemented paste backfill through admixture technology

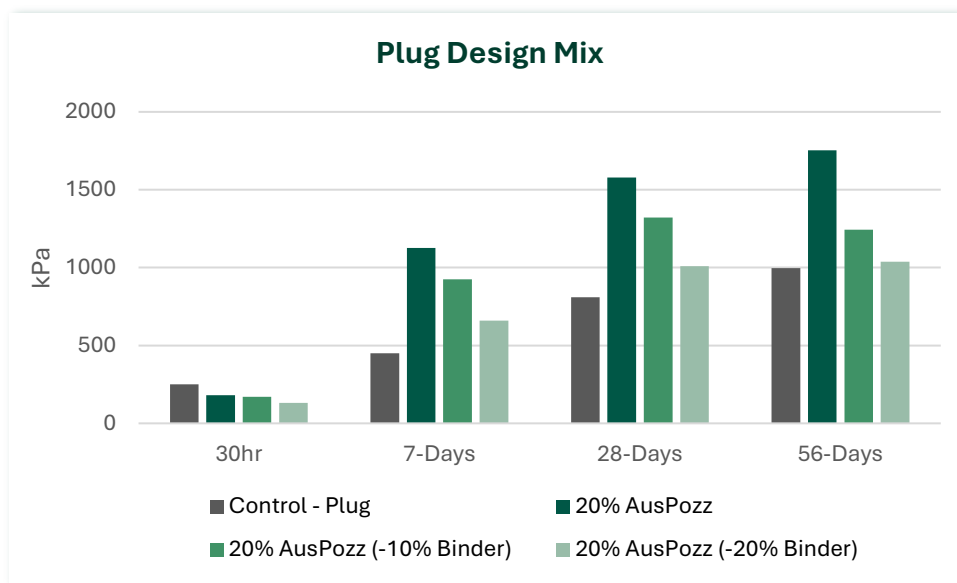


Figure 1: Chart showing Unconfined Compressive Strength (UCS) of plug design mix applications

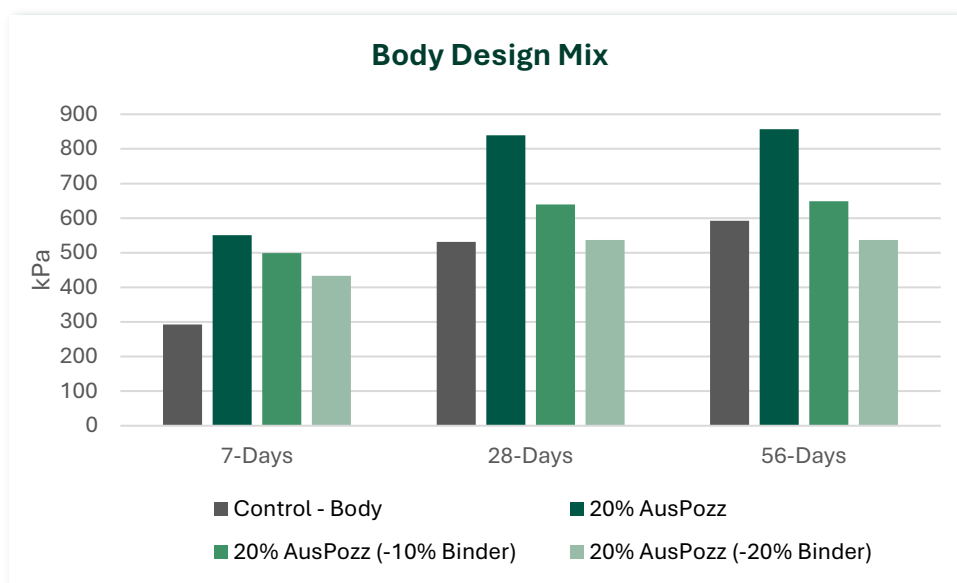


Figure 2: Chart showing Unconfined Compressive Strength (UCS) of body design mix applications

From 7 days onward, AusPozz™ delivered significant strength improvements across all CPB mixes, with 20% replacement formulations outperforming control samples, and reduced binder mixes (10 - 20% lower total binder) achieving strength results comparable to or exceeding baseline GP Cement designs. These outcomes highlight the potential for mining operations to reduce costs while enhancing underground geotechnical stability.

Workability & Performance

Workability is a critical performance parameter in CPB, governing the ability of the material to be pumped, placed, and controlled underground. Test work demonstrated that mixes incorporating AusPozz™ delivered improved workability and pumpability across most designs, with increased slump flow and no evidence of segregation or instability.

The test work also confirmed strong material compatibility, with no harmful chemical reactions observed and consistent strength development maintained through 56 days.

Carbon Reduction

A key advantage of AusPozz™ is its contribution to reducing embodied carbon. A life cycle assessment demonstrated meaningful reductions in embodied carbon when AusPozz™ was used to partially replace GP Cement, with optimised mixes reducing CO₂-e (carbon equivalent) per cubic metre by up to approximately 25 to 40%, depending on binder optimisation and transport assumptions.

These results highlight AusPozz™ as a practical and impactful pathway for Zeotech to reduce the environmental footprint of CPB operations.

Conclusions & Next Steps

SFD concluded that AusPozz™ is a technically robust and operationally reliable SCM for CPB applications, supporting binder optimisation, improved workability, enhanced long-term strength, and reduced carbon intensity, with associated cost and sustainability benefits.

Additional testing by Zeotech and a major international mining company has demonstrated that AusPozz™ delivers performance and cost advantages in fibre-crete and cable bolt grout applications, both of which are significant users of GP Cement.

In fibre-crete applications, a 20% replacement of General Purpose (GP) cement with AusPozz™ delivers a 10% reduction in total binder content and reduces accelerator requirements by at least 50%. The result is lower material costs, reduced embodied carbon, and decreased reliance on high-cost chemical additives, together with associated transport, storage, and handling requirements.

In cable bolt grout, the same level of cement replacement provides flexibility to achieve either higher strength outcomes or reduced binder consumption and cost, while maintaining performance requirements.

Zeotech will continue to engage with industry participants to advance the commercial adoption of AusPozz™ across underground mining applications.

This announcement has been approved by the Board.

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For further information, please contact:

James Marsh – Chief Executive Officer

james.marsh@zeotech.com.au

Tel: (+61) 7 3181 5523

Neville Bassett - Company Secretary

info@zeotech.com.au

Tel: (+61) 7 3181 5523

About Sustainable Future by Design (SFD)

Niki Jackson, Director of SFD, has over 25 years' experience in the concrete and extractive industries across testing, technical, operations, admixtures, and project management roles. Niki holds a Master's degree in Advanced Concrete Technology and is a member of ICT, CIA, ACI, and IMMM, with certifications in cement chemistry and sustainable cementitious materials, and a Six Sigma Black Belt in Engineering.

About Zeotech

Zeotech Limited (ASX: ZEO) is a team of dedicated people working together to build a future-focused company, leveraging wholly owned high-grade kaolin resources to produce high-reactivity metakaolin (AusPozz™) for the low-carbon concrete market and advanced materials for greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation, such as zeolites for fugitive methane control.

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www.zeotech.com.au

Zeotech Limited | ASX: ZEO
ACN 137 984 297

Level 27, Santos Place, 32 Turbot Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
P: +61 7 3181 5523 | E: info@zeotech.com.au

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