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**National Engineering Excellence Awards celebrate the best in New Zealand's Public Works Sector
3 July 2019.**

New Zealand's best Public Works and Infrastructure projects were celebrated at a packed TSB Arena in Wellington, at the Institute of Public Works Conference in Wellington last Thursday night.

Into their 14th year, the IPWEA NZ Engineering Excellence Awards recognise and celebrate the often invisible efforts and achievements of the exceptional people working in local government, central government, consultants, contractors and suppliers around New Zealand. Their work managing our infrastructure assets is integral to supporting New Zealand communities to thrive. A new award was added this to recognise Excellence in Environment and Sustainability, sponsored by Morphem Consulting.

The Sea Level Rise Exposure Study prepared by Tonkin and Taylor for Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) won the *Excellence in Strategic Planning* category. A first for New Zealand and possibly the world, this report for LGNZ estimated the quantity and replacement value of local government-owned infrastructure exposed to sea level rise, and provided guidance and recommendations for the local government sector in order to manage and address these issues. It was designed to provide quantitative evidence, clear focus and an imperative for action on an issue that affects all coastal councils and communities in New Zealand.

Dunedin City Council, WSP Opus and Downer jointly won the *Excellence in Maximising Asset Performance* Award for their Ross Creek Reservoir Refurbishment project.

Ross Creek Reservoir in Dunedin is the oldest large earth dam in New Zealand. Opened in 1867, it was created to provide water for Dunedin as it rapidly expanded due to the Otago goldrush. The reservoir, dam and valve tower have a Heritage New Zealand 'Historic Place Category 1' classification.

This efficiently-delivered refurbishment project is a fine example of maximising asset performance. This work has saved an important New Zealand structure from decommissioning and enhanced the resilience of Dunedin's water supply.

Wellington City Council, Wellington Water, GHD and Brian Perry Civil were joint winners of the Best Public Works Project under \$5 million for their Dixon Street Pumping Station and Rising Main project. Central Wellington is set for huge growth, with a population increase of 12 percent expected over the next 30 years.

GHD was engaged by Wellington Water to carry out the investigation, design, tender and contract supervision for a new wastewater pump station and associated pipework, under Victoria and Dixon Streets in Central Wellington. Constructed by Brian Perry Civil, this project is the first pump station to be constructed in Central Wellington in over 40 years. This enables Wellington Water to provide wastewater services to a growing population, and relieves pressure on other pump stations around the city, reducing the chance of overflows into the harbour.

The Kuaka Gateway project at the Northern entrance to Napier was the winner of the *Best Public Works Project over \$5 million*. This work at the Watchman Road Intersection has significantly improved safety at a previously dangerous intersection, and delivered on the varied aspirations and needs of multiple funding agencies and an extensive and divergent array of stakeholders. The



project was funded by NZTA, Napier City Council and the Hawkes Bay Airport, with consultants WSP Opus and Stantec, and contractor Higgins, carrying out the work. A deliberately best practice approach to environmental planning, engineering and landscape design, built-in Te Aranga principles, and an outcomes-based approach to stakeholder engagement, showed how major infrastructure projects can be designed and delivered with net positive impacts even within the most sensitive sites.

The first new category to be added to the Awards in 14 years, the inaugural Excellence in Environment and Sustainability Award was the Cromwell Waste Water Treatment Plant project. This project was carried out for the Central Otago District Council by consultants, Harrison Grierson and CH2M Beca, and contractors Fulton Hogan, Downer and Southwater.

The needs of the Central Otago District Council's environment and growing Cromwell community were identified, addressed and future-proofed through the delivery of this project. A wealth of experience and clever innovation were brought together to achieve the best possible outcomes for both the community and local environment. The improvement in the quality of wastewater discharge because of this project will have a long-term positive impact on the quality of the local river and lake water.

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The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia – New Zealand Division (IPWEA NZ) are the peak infrastructure membership body in New Zealand. Find out more at: www.ipwea.org/newzealand