

MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE

IPWEA NZ launches digital badging micro-credentials to address skills shortage.

30 September 2019

Last Thursday night IPWEA NZ (Institute of Public Works Engineering of Australasia) celebrated the launch of its digital badging programme - New Zealand's first asset management microcredentials.

The digital badging programme stems from Fostering Our Future – an initiative established by IPWEA NZ in response to the looming skills shortage facing public works engineering, to investigate how to better attract and retain people into public works engineering, and how to provide more career diversity for those working the sector. A business case was developed to investigate the ability of micro-credentials to address the skills shortage, funded by the Tertiary Education Commission, and realised by Utility Consulting.

Micro-credentials are a step-change in how IPWEA delivers training, moving with the digital revolution to support and grow our profession, and to meet new and emerging skills needs in the asset management profession.

The Digital Badging Programme uses the iQualify platform, which delivers learning online – making upskilling accessible anytime, anywhere on any device, giving learners the flexibility to fit their study around their lives.

"The opportunity to power IPWEA's work with iQualify's learning and assessment capabilities has been an exciting one for us. IPWEA is breaking new ground in digital credentials for emerging skills in infrastructure asset management. We're excited to continue working with IPWEA as they grow their digital badging programme." Said Shanan Holm, General Manager iQualify.

Since its launch in August 2019 this new way of learning has been gaining industry recognition as a fast and cost-effective way for upskilling employers, and addressing the skills shortage, ultimately benefitting the communities that we are here to serve.

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