



2023 IPWEA International Asset Management Congress

2023 COMMUNIQUE



Over 300 delegates from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA gathered on the Gold Coast between the 14th and 15th June to attend the 2023 IPWEA International Asset Management Congress.

The Congress theme '*Leading the Asset Management Journey – Achieving a Scalable and Consistent Approach to Infrastructure Asset Management*' lead the conversations. Delegates heard from global experts and thought leaders in the asset management profession providing the opportunity to share experiences with their peers.

To shape the future of infrastructure Asset Management, delegates considered a draft Communique to progress the recommendations outlined in the *IPWEA White Paper on 'Best practice asset management of essential public infrastructure'*.

The Communique was framed around four broad themes:

1. Increase awareness of Asset Management
2. Increase commitment to educational programs
3. Re-activate the 'Local Government Financial Sustainability – Nationally consistent frameworks'
4. Provide investment and planning certainty

These themes include priority actions aimed at addressing the challenges and opportunities facing infrastructure custodians who deliver services to our communities.

Congress delegates provided valuable feedback on the recommendations contained in the Communique.

The Congress concluded with a strong call to action, urging all stakeholders to unite in their efforts to enhance the quality of life of our communities through public works and services by implementing the following recommendations.

David Jenkins
IPWEA CEO

Increase awareness of asset management

- To **design and implement** an awareness campaign for government and major stakeholders about what asset management is and why best practice asset management is important.
- **Report** good practice and promote exemplars.
- **Mentor** current and prospective members on the value proposition of being an asset manager.

Increase commitment to educational programs

- To **introduce** a national engineering/asset management training program including cadetships to address the current skills gap.
- For all levels of government to **invest** in the training of asset management professionals to deliver a better return on infrastructure investment for Australian communities.
- All jurisdictions to **promote** consistent standards, documentation, training, and best practice principles to be shared and used internationally through asset management expertise.

Re-activate the 'local government financial sustainability – nationally consistent frameworks'

- For State and Territory Governments to **strengthen** their requirement to ensure best practice AM by:
 - facilitating an **audit** of the long-term financial plan of each local government by the relevant regulator, to ensure alignment with the asset management plan lifecycle forecasts; and
 - **publish** the results of the audits nationally.
- For the Australian Government to **encourage** local and state governments to report and benchmark against the financial sustainability ratios in the International Infrastructure Financial Management Manual. (IFMM).
- For local government to continue to **report** annually on the State of their Assets according to the Australian Local Government Association's agreed performance measures.
- For the Federal Government to oversee the **development** of a National Integrated Asset Management Governance Framework for transport and community infrastructure.

Provide investment and planning certainty

- To ensure all levels of government **collaborate** on strategic infrastructure planning goals in response to changing circumstances.
- The Congress calls for the Australian Government to **commit** to a sustainable funding model to meet the identified infrastructure and asset management needs for the community.
- All levels of government **focus** on aligning service, asset and financial planning through proactive engagement with stakeholders that maximises value to the organisation.

**IPWEA**INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENGINEERING AUSTRALASIA**Best practice asset management of essential public infrastructure**

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