

## Media Release

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### **Winners of AU and NZ's top local government infrastructure awards announced**

The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) has unveiled Australia and New Zealand's **most outstanding public works engineering projects and professionals** at the inaugural IPWEA Australasia Excellence Awards.

The awards, sponsored by Ventia, highlighted the wealth of innovation, skill and dedication within the public works industry and commended practitioners who have gone above and beyond in the provision of infrastructure and services for their communities.

The winners were announced at last night's Komatsu Grand Platinum Gala Dinner, held on the last day of the 2017 IPWEA International Public Works Conference.

Judged by a panel of industry experts, the finalists represented the industry's best of the best, having already won their category from each Australian state and New Zealand in 2015-2017.

Western Australia's City of Gosnells took out the top honour, winning the **IPWEA Australasia Public Works Medal for Project of the Year 2017** for the Mills Park Redevelopment, which also won the Excellence in Environment and Sustainability 2017 award.

The project included the construction of an ecologically sustainable community facility. In their comments, the judges noted that the facility, which was completed in October 2016, represents 'world best practice in sustainable design', as the only public building in Australia to be awarded six stars in the Green Star sustainability rating system.

"It is an outstanding effort to integrate natural and a multi-purpose, multi-functional built environment – six Green Stars says it all," the judges concluded.

In the individual awards, City of Greater Geelong's Vicki Shelton was awarded the IPWEA Australasia Public Works Leadership Medal 2017, Will Barton from Junee Shire Council was named Young IPWEA Emerging Leader Award 2017 and David Harris from City of Gosnells took home the IPWEA's highest honour, the Keith H Wood Medal.

IPWEA CEO Robert Fuller said both the industry and communities should be encouraged by the calibre of the winners and finalists.

"The importance of great infrastructure in the health, wealth and happiness of our communities cannot be overestimated," Mr Fuller said.

"Through these awards, we hope to encourage those who have strived toward greatness in the field of public works to continue to innovate and push the boundaries.

“These awards precisely embody the spirit and focus of IPWEA: supporting public works engineering professionals to reach their full potential for the good of their communities. Congratulations to all of our winners and finalists – you are officially the best of the best, and you’ve done your organisations, industry and IPWEA proud.”

Held in Perth August 20-23, the biennial 2017 IPWEA International Public Works Conference drew more than 500 delegates from Australia and New Zealand, in addition to 30 international delegates from 10 countries.

Congratulations to all of the category winners:

**IPWEA Australasia Public Works Medal for Project of the Year 2017**

Mills Park Redevelopment  
City of Gosnells  
Western Australia

**Best Public Works Project 2017 Under \$2m**

Sumner Road Retaining Wall, Stage 4  
Christchurch City Council and Fulton Hogan  
New Zealand

**Best Public Works Project 2017 \$2m to \$5m**

Wyong CBD Drainage Upgrade  
Central Coast Council  
New South Wales

**Best Public Works Project 2017 Over \$5m**

Te Ara I Whiti – The Lightpath  
NZ Transport Agency and GHD  
New Zealand

**Excellence in Asset Management 2017**

River Torrens Linear Park – Strategic Integrated Asset Management Plan  
Tonkin Consulting, City of Charles Sturt and nine adjoining councils  
South Australia

**Excellence in Project Innovation 2017**

TARDIS Software - making your rainfall and stream level data from Enviromon accessible and useful  
Townsville City Council  
Queensland

**Excellence in Water Project 2017**

Timaru District Wide Wastewater Strategy  
Timaru District Council  
New Zealand

**Excellence in Road Safety 2017**

City-wide Schools Traffic Safety and Parking Review  
Tonkin Consulting, City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters and GTA Consultants  
South Australia

**Excellence in Environment and Sustainability 2017**

Mills Park Redevelopment  
City of Gosnells  
Western Australia

**Young IPWEA Emerging Leader Award 2017**

Will Barton  
Junee Shire Council  
New South Wales

**IPWEA Australasia Public Works Leadership Medal 2017**

Vicki Shelton  
City of Greater Geelong  
Victoria

**Keith H Wood Medal**

David Harris  
City of Gosnells  
Western Australia

**National Asset Management Award (NAMie) – for the best asset management paper presented at the conference**

Ben Clark  
City of Tea Tree Gully  
South Australia

**E.J. (Ted) Hooper Medal – for the best overall paper presented at the conference**

Priyani de Silva-Currie (Co-authored by Samantha Almeida)  
Calibre Consulting Ltd  
New Zealand

**For interviews:**

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**About IPWEA**

IPWEA is the peak not-for-profit association for public works and engineering professionals across Australia and New Zealand. It provides training, publications and advocacy to support its 4,000-plus members and 20,000-plus community of engineering professionals who provide essential community infrastructure. Visit [www.ipwea.org](http://www.ipwea.org).