

Media Release

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For immediate release:

Winners of top Australian and New Zealand infrastructure and public works awards announced

The Institute of Public Works Engineers Australasia announced Australia's and New Zealand's most outstanding public works engineering projects and professionals at the IPWEA Australasia Excellence Awards on 28 August in Hobart.

The winners were announced at the Komatsu Grand Platinum Gala Dinner at the 2019 IPWEA International Public Works Conference. The event highlighted the wealth of innovation, skill and dedication within the public works industry and celebrated the professionals who have delivered outstanding service to community infrastructure.

The finalists represented the industry's best, with each nominee having already won their category in IPWEA Divisional awards held prior to the August conference.

"It was said during the conference that public works engineers 'hold the world together' while remaining quietly in the background," said IPWEA CEO Cathy Morcom.

"The IPWEA International Public Works Conference Excellence Awards publicly recognises the contributions by these professionals to outstanding project design and innovation; high quality results and dedicated community service.

"Congratulations to all IPWC award finalists and winners on their dedication, hard work and achievements."

The biennial conference drew a total of more than 500 delegates from Australia, New Zealand, Finland, Malaysia and the USA.

"The fact that so many attended our conference during winter in the beautiful city of Hobart shows the strength of our membership's engagement with current issues and professional development," said Morcom.

"Whilst technology has assisted IPWEA in providing services and daily interaction between members and divisions through training and community forums, it is our conferences, workshops and other events in the field that provide active connections and invaluable networking opportunities.

"Until the next conference in 2021 in Adelaide, IPWEA will apply the input and interests relayed in Hobart to building and strengthening value for our members. I believe that together, we can collaborate, we can consult and we can be transparent in our intent in order to fulfil our vision."

Five of the 15 awards went to Queensland projects, with Somerset Regional Council's Brisbane Valley Rail Trail (Toogoolawah to Moore) taking out both the Best Public Works Project \$2.0m to \$5.0m and the prestigious IPWEA Australasia Public Works Medal for Project of the Year 2019, which was sponsored by Engineers Australia. The 161km recreational trail follows the disused Brisbane railway line and it has become a substantial local asset helping to drive tourism in south-east Queensland.

New Zealanders won three awards, including Best Public Works Project over \$5.0m for the rebuild of a Christchurch family playground after the major earthquakes of 2010; Excellence in Asset Management, for the Wellington Water Supply Resilience Study and Best Conference Paper for the Temuka Water Event (Asbestos).

Congratulations to the winners:

Best Public Works Project 2019 under \$2.0m

Five Dock Main streetscape improvements
City of Canada Bay
New South Wales

Best Public Works Project 2019 \$2.0m - \$5.0m

Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, Toogoolawah to Moore
Somerset Regional Council
Queensland

Best Public Works Project 2019 over \$5.0m

Margaret Mahy Family Playground, Christchurch
CERA and WSP Opus
New Zealand

Excellence in Asset Management 2019

Wellington Water Supply Resilience Study
Wellington Water and Stantec
New Zealand

Excellence in Project Innovation 2019

Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve Rainforest Discovery Centre
Sunshine Coast Council
Queensland

Excellence in Water Project 2019

Hartfield Park Waterproofing Project
City of Kalamundra
Western Australia

Excellence in Road Safety 2019

Flooded Roads Smart Warning System
Logan City Council
Queensland

Excellence in Environment & Sustainability 2019

Bayswater Brook Catchment Management Plan
City of Bayswater
Western Australia

Young IPWEA Emerging Leader Award 2019

Ben Clark
City of Adelaide
South Australia

IPWEA Australasia Public Works Leadership Medal 2019

Sponsored and presented by Engineers Australia

Ossie Martinz
City of Monash
Victoria

IPWEA Australasia Public Works Medal for Project of the Year 2019

Sponsored and presented by Engineers Australia

Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, Toogoolawah to Moore
Somerset Regional Council
Queensland

Keith H Wood Medal

Ken Halstead (NSW)

National Asset Management Award (NAMie)

For Best Asset Management Paper presented at the conference
Digital Engineering for Local Government Infrastructure Planning and Management
Ashish Shah, Logan City Council

E.J. (Ted) Hooper Medal

For best conference paper
Temuka Water Event (Asbestos)
Ashley Harper, Timaru District Council

People's Choice Award

For best conference presentation
The Tyranny of Distance – Challenges of Infrastructure Delivery in Remote Indigenous Communities
Jo O'Brien, Tonkin Consulting

ENDS

For interviews

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About IPWEA

The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia 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.