



IPWEA

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENGINEERING AUSTRALASIA

Media Release

6 August 2019

For immediate release:

IPWEA Hobart public works conference not just about jobs on the ground

If you walked on a footpath, drove down a street, crossed a bridge or visited a council building today, it's because teams of public works professionals had been there in the past, to plan, design, build and upgrade everything you need to get around in safety.

On August 25, hundreds of indispensable experts who keep daily life running smoothly in large and small communities will arrive in Hobart for the International Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) 2019 International Public Works Conference. Held every two years in a different city, a highlight of the event is the IPWEA Australasia Awards for Excellence, a formal ceremony recognising the commitment and talent of members of the field for their successful work.

Over five days, the conference hosted by the peak body of the public works sector brings together technical, engineering, management and others from government and private enterprise with suppliers and contractors to share knowledge about developing and maintaining sustainable infrastructure.

However, if you're thinking 'pot-holes and pathways', IPWEA President, Mat Greskie, wants you to think again.

"Today, the scope of public works engineering expands well beyond those coalface jobs visible at street-level," said Greskie.

"In their work in public and private enterprise, members of IPWEA find solutions for everything from fixing roads to community engagement, environmental protection, asset management, transport planning and customer service systems. Joint ventures between government and non-government organisations also share resources and skills to address climate change, divert recyclables from the waste stream, design smart cities and lead on innovations, such as using electric vehicles in fleets."

The IPWEA has eight divisions spanning all Australian states, New Zealand and Canada. President of the Tasmania Division, Paul Breden, is delighted that Hobart is the 2019 event's venue.

"It provides an exciting opportunity for Tasmanians to attend an international standard event in their own backyard, and to showcase our city and state to interstate and international visitors," said Breden.

"A team from IPWEA Tasmania has been busy organising local tours for conference delegates, to show them the technical side of Hobart's significant public works projects."

Young IPWEA is the branch of the institute for engineers aged under 35. Representatives of YIPWEA will present a stream of sessions about their workplace achievements and the career opportunities available in a field currently experiencing critical skill shortages.

Adela Parnell, Senior Engineer Strategic Asset Management at TasWater, is a YIPWEA member and is also on the IPWEA Tasmania committee and its secretary. She will present a session about TasWater's new professional development initiative, where head-office workers are sent to 'spend a day in the shoes' of a waste water worker in the field.

Innovation is prominent behind the scenes in public works engineering and much of the conference program is about technology's role in enhancing community services and amenities. Delegates will hear about smart lighting controls, smart construction, driverless vehicles, the role of drones in making inspections, and virtual parking systems.

"Six keynote speakers will share the latest in engineering education and careers, outsourced citizen services, waste market dynamics, road surfacing using recycled materials, and circular economy principles," said Greskie.

"The conference program reflects the escalating responsibilities of the global public works profession today in delivering community services. The event will connect planners, engineers, suppliers, mentors and peers to share new ways of balancing costs, risk and performance for public wellbeing, now and in the future."

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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.