



13 October 2021

## City of Gold Coast wins three public works engineering awards

City of Gold Coast received three wins at the [Institute of Public Works Australasia Queensland \(IPWEAQ\)](#) excellence awards announced at their annual conference in Cairns last week.

City of Gold Coast's Rhys McQueen was named Professional of the Year, and Surfers Paradise Sand Backpass Pipeline Project won a coastal engineering award and highly commended for project of the year.

Leigh Cunningham, CEO of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Queensland (IPWEAQ), said the peak body's annual excellence awards recognised the success of infrastructure and engineering projects and the people who deliver them across the state.

"These awards highlight how public works engineering projects and professionals are improving our communities and growing our economies through every aspect of our lives, from transportation and water supply to road safety and recycling, to recreation," Ms Cunningham said.

"Public works engineering professionals work on infrastructure projects that will contribute an estimated \$32 billion a year to the Queensland economy every year for the next five years.

"With the state's continuing growth and the lead-up to the 2032 Olympics, Queensland's public works engineering sector will be taking a leading role over the coming decade."

Rhys McQueen, asset management engineer for Council's transport, was honoured for his collaboration and management skills and dedication to the Council since starting his first role in traffic engineering.

City of Gold Coast also took out the award for Coastal Engineering for the Surfers Paradise Sand Backpass Pipeline Project with the same project being awarded highly commended for Project of the Year.

The Surfers Paradise Sand Backpass Pipeline project is a 7.8 kilometre sand delivery pipeline which is due for completion later this year. Once completed, 6.3 kilometres of permanent pipe will run underground and connect to 1.5 kilometres of temporary above-ground pipe to deliver sand from the existing Gold Coast Waterway Authority's Sand Bypass Jetty at The Spit onto the upper northern beaches from Surfers Paradise to Main Beach.

The IPWEAQ Coastal Engineering excellence award recognised the positive outcomes involved in the City of Gold Coast's Surfers Paradise Backpass project, with the pipeline due to deliver natural sand from The Spit and deposit it on the Gold Coast's iconic northern beaches. The backpass will provide protection from coastal erosion and maintain beach amenity for residents and visitors. It will form an important long-term investment in

maintaining Council beaches and supporting the strategic outcomes of Council's Ocean Beaches Strategy.