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MEDIA RELEASE Statewide

Awards honour public works engineering excellence

Brisbane's Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade was named one of Queensland's best public works projects by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Queensland (IPWEAQ), the industry's peak body, at their awards in Cairns on Tuesday night.

Leigh Cunningham, IPWEAQ CEO said the project was one of 30 projects and people around the state recognised for delivering outstanding outcomes for Queensland communities who were honoured in front of 450 delegates at a gala at the Cairns Convention Centre.

"Public works engineering resolves the issues that impact our lives and creates more connected communities," Ms Cunningham said.

"Infrastructure projects such as these 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 at the forefront over the coming decade enriching our lives further.

"Public works engineers deliver solutions for transport and road safety, water supply and security, recycling, to recreation at football stadiums, parks and walking trails."

"The Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade has transformed one of the city's busiest and most historically significant routes into a vibrant corridor with the Brisbane River as its centrepiece.

"The project presented a number of unique civil engineering challenges including the discovery of undocumented underground infrastructure, widening a high-volume road in a highly constrained corridor with multiple utility services, and a new river walk which cantilevers over the Brisbane River with its own set of challenges."

The Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade created a six-lane median-divided roadway that has reduced traffic congestion and improved local amenity and access for road users including cyclists, pedestrians and public transport users.

A key feature of the upgrade is the subtropical tree-line boulevard which creates a new entry statement for the city. Other features include the 1.2km Lores Bonney Riverwalk, the remodelled Cameron Rocks Reserve with the WW1 war memorial as its centrepiece, the new Bretts Wharf Plaza and the new Recreation Hub with its public pontoon to suit different sized vessels.

Brisbane City Council's SAMs for Schools project received IPWEAQ's excellence award for Road Safety Infrastructure. The Speed Awareness Monitors reward motorists with a smiley face for driving at or below the speed limit and a slowdown message when they are speeding. SAMs has encouraged motorists to reduce speed by an average of more than 8 kilometres per hour across all sites since it was introduced in 2013. There are currently over 180 monitors in place across Brisbane.

The Council's Indooroopilly Riverwalk was highly commended for projects valued at over \$20 million. The 800m Riverwalk was designed as a separated, two-way cycle and e-mobility area and separate pedestrian walkway for safe and accessible travel linking Twigg Street to the Jack Pesch Bridge.

Employer of the Year (public sector)

The Department of Transport and Main Roads won Employer of the Year (Public Sector). TMR is one of the largest employers of engineers in Queensland, with almost 750 professional engineers and this year recruited more than 40 graduate engineers. TMR engineers connect communities by developing a safe and secure transport and road network leading to increased economic security. TMR engineers work across a wide variety of engineering disciplines including civil, structural, geotechnical, traffic, transport, electrical, environmental and systems engineering.

The Mill at Petrie

Moreton Bay Regional Council took out the best project worth from \$5 million to \$10 million for The Mill at Moreton Bay water park and play space, on the former Petrie Paper Mill site.

The Mill playground features custom designed adventure and water play spaces which reflect the historic industrial nature of the site. The spaces have been carefully designed to include universal access zones, non-prescribed junior play, and multiple level adventure exploration. The combination of water and adventure play offers children opportunities for all children to explore the limits of play.

The site was originally the Petrie Paper Mill which was established in 1957. It was decommissioned and the site cleared to make way for a prosperous new future for the region.

Gold Coast

City of Gold Coast won the Coastal Engineering award for the Surfers Paradise Sand Backpass Pipeline Project and Bundaberg Regional Council, with AECOM, won the Asset Management award for their Stormwater Management Strategy.

Public Works Professional of the Year

Rhys McQueen, a Traffic Engineering Officer with the City of Gold Coast, was awarded Professional of the Year for his ability to bring together staff from multiple disciplines to achieve the best outcomes across the \$5.2 billion transport network for the city and the community.

Sunshine Coast

Sunshine Coast Council's \$2 million Maroochy Groyne renewal project won the \$1 million to \$2 million category and Mooloolaba Amarina Culvert renewal project received the award for best project under \$1 million.

The Maroochy Groyne Renewal Project is preventing the erosion of Maroochydore's iconic Cotton Tree parklands and surrounding precinct, with its recreation areas, businesses, accommodation, and residential properties. It was also highly commended as a coastal engineering project.

Sunshine Coast Council and Interflow delivered the Mooloolaba's Amarina Culvert renewal to improve stormwater management.

Fraser Coast

The Fraser Coast Regional Council received the Innovation & Sustainability in Water award for the upgrade of the Urraween Reservoir with its floating roof and liner replacement. Twelve months of planning, trials, and teamwork went into ensuring water security when the largest water reservoir in the network was taken offline for three months to reline.

Coondoo Creek Bridge Replacement, Wide Bay Burnett region

Roadtek won an award for the bet project valued from \$10 to \$20 million for the \$15.6 million Coondoo Creek Bridge replacement project.

The project replaced the existing old timber bridge over Coondoo Creek that carried almost 4000 vehicles per day, was a flood and safety risk. Construction was started while considering environmental approvals, cultural heritage assessments, and limitations to design and constructability imposed by works in a waterway.

The project included the construction of a side-track, forestry service road and just over 1km of new embankment for road approaches. Several safe and cost-effective technical innovations were delivered including using rock bags instead of temporary mini piles or sheet piling for the working platform and using cranes instead of installing girders and a launching truss. Positive design changes such as change from cast in-situ to pre-cast bridge barriers resulted in a safer, and more cost-effective construction effort.

Thargomindah water cooling project

Bulloo Shire Council's \$2.8 million Thargomindah Water Cooling Project won the \$2 million to \$5 million project category. Bulloo Shire Council developed the solar-powered water-cooling system to address long-standing concerns over bore water temperatures. The system produces potable bore water temperature at a cool drinkable level and reduces the degradation of existing water supply and reticulation infrastructure.

Darling Downs and Toowoomba

Darling Downs locals won six of the 30 awards, including four to Toowoomba Regional Council, one to a Transport and Main Roads' local office staff member and one to GHD Toowoomba.

Toowoomba Regional Council took out the award for best project over \$20 million for the \$67 million new principal depot and the best project valued between \$10 million and \$20 million and the Environmental & Sustainability awards for the Kleinton waste management facility.

Team Member of the Year

Toowoomba Regional Council's Nathan Whittaker was awarded team member of the year. Mr Whittaker, coordinator for Council's Construction and Maintenance North branch, was

honoured for his technical and management skills, and his 22-year commitment to local government since starting out as a trainee at Booringa Shire Council.

Emerging Professional

Nicholas Delaney, a principal project manager with the Council, won emerging professional of the year. Nick's versatile portfolio includes the new Highfields Library and associated roadworks, the Toowoomba Railway Goods Shed heritage restoration, and the historic heritage listed Soldiers Memorial Hall.

Woman in Engineering

Bernie-Ann Freeman, a 28-year-old senior engineer with the Department of Transport and Main Roads Darling Downs district, was named IPWEAQ Woman in Engineering. Ms Freeman, who started her career as a cadet designer, recently led a \$50 million infrastructure works package and was appointed principal engineer for the Resurfacing and Rehabilitation for the district.

Employer of the Year private sector

GHD Toowoomba office employs 15 to 20 permanent, full-time local engineers, scientists and technicians catering to clients across Toowoomba and south-west Queensland. The firm was recognised for their broad range of career development and wellbeing programs, for graduates, young professionals, emerging leaders, and women.

Bundaberg

Bundaberg Regional Council's stormwater management strategy claimed the Best Asset Management Project award. The collaborative project between Bundaberg Regional Council and AECOM creates an overarching Stormwater Management Strategy with best practice asset management that caters for future growth while maintaining and improving existing stormwater infrastructure.

Townsville

Townsville's Southern Suburbs Rising Main project was highly commended in the Environment & Sustainability category.

The Townsville City Council and Queensland Government-funded project, delivered in conjunction with BMD, has helped reduce pressure on the city's sewerage network.

The project increased capacity for the key defence and economic precincts of Lavarack Barracks, the Townsville Hospital and James Cook University, supporting future population growth in the southern and western suburbs to cater for an expected 20,000 new residents.

Far North Queensland

Cassowary Coast Regional Council received a highly commended award for Tully's new grandstand and multiuse sporting complex project in the \$5 million to \$10 million category.

Tablelands Regional Council received a highly commended award for projects in the \$2 million to \$5 million category for Atherton's water quality improvement plan.

For further information visit ipweaq.com

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