



13 October 2021

Sunshine Coast water projects win public works excellence awards

Two Sunshine Coast infrastructure upgrades were named among the state's best public works projects at the Institute of [Public Works Engineering Australasia Queensland \(IPWEAQ\)](#) awards held in Cairns last week.

Sunshine Coast Council and Interflow took out the award for best project under \$1 million for the Renewal of the Amarina Culvert at Mooloolaba, and Council won the award for best project valued at \$1 million to \$2 million for the Maroochy Groyne Project, which was also highly commended for the Coastal Engineering award.

IPWEAQ CEO Leigh Cunningham said the annual excellence awards recognised the success of infrastructure and public works engineering projects and the people who deliver them across Queensland.

"These projects highlight how public works engineering is 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 at football stadiums, parks and walking trails," Ms Cunningham said.

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

A large reinforced concrete box culvert located at Amarina Avenue in Mooloolaba was found to need urgent renewal by Sunshine Coast Council's Stormwater Management Asset team during a culvert inspection program in 2020.

Constructed in 1975, the culvert passes under a busy district collector street, taking run-off from the Sunshine Motorway to the Mooloolaba Canal.

Interflow proposed a solution using imported custom designed and manufactured glass reinforced plastic box sections designed to carry all loading, with custom manufacture, thinner walls, and smoother interior surface to not reduce flow carrying capacity.

The sections are corrosion resistant in marine conditions, making for an excellent solution to the needed repairs without causing reduction to carrying capacity or traffic disturbances during construction.

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.

The Maroochy Groyne Renewal Project (Stage 1) renewed two groyne structures and the seawall surrounding the Cotton Tree Holiday Park. In an Australian first, the Council used more than 2,000 nine-tonne geotextile bags filled with sand in the project.



The Council established a community reference group (the Maroochy River Estuary Consultation Group) to cater for the significant community and political interest in groyne replacement options.

A cross-organisational team approach delivered continuity over each phase of the project, drawing on project management and coastal engineering expertise throughout.

This research, combined with coastal engineering principles and a sound understanding of the Maroochy River's natural migration processes, delivered a successful project and infrastructure that will serve the community for decades to come.

The projects are among 30 people and projects was around the state recognised for delivering outstanding outcomes for Queensland communities at the IPWEAQ excellence as a part of the 2021 annual conference at the Cairns Convention Centre from 12 to 14 October.

Registrations are now open for IPWEAQ's two-day [Public Works Professionals Orientation](#) at its Eagle Farm training facility on 23-24 November. The course, designed in consultation with industry, gives big-picture context and essential knowledge for professionals joining the public works sector at any stage of their career.

For further information visit ipweaq.com.au

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Media contact: Carmel Carrick, IPWEAQ Media and Communications Manager 0414 596 105