



## MEDIA RELEASE – EMBARGOED TILL 11PM TONIGHT

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### **Toowoomba wins six public works engineering awards**

Toowoomba led the field at the Institute of Public Works Australasia Queensland (IPWEAQ) excellence awards announced in Cairns last night.

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.

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."

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.

The four-year project to rebuild the Council's principal depot on a 68ha site in the emerging Charlton Wellcamp industrial precinct replaced aging facilities inherited through the 2008 amalgamation of eight local councils. The new principal depot is a significant investment into the local economy providing modern workplace facilities. Local architects Sims White, Struxi Design and Stephanie Keays and local engineering consultants Brandon & Associates and Ashburner Francis worked on the project.

The IPWEAQ Environment & Sustainability Award excellence award recognised how well the Toowoomba Regional Council's Kleinton waste management facility was upgraded, with waste relocation and landfill rehabilitation handled safely and in keeping with environmental standards. The project continued to service the community during the build by segregating construction work from waste facility operations. The futuristic facility was designed for a 25-year life with a scope to expand in the next 50 years.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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