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Townsville water pipeline wins public works accolade

Townsville's Southern Suburbs Rising Main project has been recognised as one of the best public works projects in the state by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Queensland (IPWEAQ) at its awards in Cairns last night.

IPWEAQ CEO Leigh Cunningham said the project was highly commended in the Environment & Sustainability category in the annual excellence awards for infrastructure and public works engineering projects and the people who deliver them.

"The Townsville southern suburbs rising main project addresses the need to plan and manage infrastructure for the future in a sustainable manner," Ms Cunningham said.

"This project highlights public works engineering is evolving and adapting innovative strategies to improve and support growing communities and local economies.

"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 taking a leading role over the coming decade."

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.

The 11.2km pipeline includes a 3.8km high-density polyethylene trunk main running from Oonoonba to the Cleveland Bay purification plant, and a return recycled water main to be used as part of the city's recycled water re-use scheme. Recycled water will be available to irrigate parks, golf courses, Townsville stadium and for industrial use.

With about 70 per cent of the project located in tidal areas, BMD overcame technical challenges of scheduling works around low tidal periods, working within the groundwater table, poor subsurface materials and the treatment and disposal of 70,000 cubic metres of combined acid sulphate soil and water.

This award is one of 30 announced by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Queensland at the annual conference and awards in front of 450 delegates at the refurbished Cairns Convention Centre from 12 to 14 October.

For more information visit ipweaq.com

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