

# MEDIA RELEASE

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 26 OCTOBER 2017**

## Outback water alliance achieves excellence in public works

An alliance of seven regional councils has taken out the award for water projects under \$2 million at this year's Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia, Queensland (IPWEAQ) Excellence Awards.

The awards recognise councils and individuals who have demonstrated best practice and innovation in public works projects across Queensland.

The Outback Regional Water Alliance collected the award for its Regional Outback Water Quality Infrastructure Program.

The Alliance comprises Barcaldine Regional Council, Barcoo Shire Council, Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, Boulia Shire Council, Diamantina Shire Council, Longreach Regional Council and Winton Shire Council.

The infrastructure program seeks to bring improved water quality to the region through collaboration and innovative approaches whilst meeting the individual needs of each of the communities across the seven contributing councils.

Over the past twelve months the alliance has delivered infrastructure works and cleaning on water reservoirs, joint audits of Drinking Water Quality Management Plans along with inspections, condition assessments and cleaning of water mains across the region.

A total of 20 awards were presented at the gala dinner and awards ceremony held at the Ville Resort, Townsville where 350 of the state's leading authorities on engineering gathered for the annual state conference.

IPWEAQ Chief Executive Officer Leigh Cunningham said the 2017 awards had attracted a record number of nominations, with 55 projects and 11 individual nominations submitted from councils both large and small across Queensland.

"Introduced in 2002 the awards aim to recognise excellence, innovation, forward thinking and sustainability in the delivery of projects that benefit Queensland communities," Ms Cunningham said.

“Winners in each category are selected by a judging panel of experienced public works professionals based on the project submission.

“The criteria addresses innovation but also stakeholder engagement and the contribution to the community and local economy.

“There are considerable benefits for winners including industry acknowledgement and recognition from their local mayor, councillors and community.

“The respect and exposure the awards bring enables Queenslanders to see the value of the projects delivered for their community that they might not otherwise appreciate in terms of innovation and excellence.

“It also creates awareness for the engineers delivering these projects as they are specialists in their field dedicated to public service and making a difference to our communities across the state.”

The winners of each award will be featured in IPWEAQ’s quarterly e-journal, *Engineering for Public Works* and in the annual awards commemorative book and have the honour of applying the highly regarded winners’ seal to promote their projects and council.

“The awards ceremony is always a highlight and there is an enormous amount of respect given to the award nominees as well as the winners,” Ms Cunningham said.

–ENDS–

#### **About IPWEAQ**

IPWEAQ is the peak body representing those working in the public works sector in Queensland. Anyone actively engaged in the delivery of public works and services in Queensland is eligible to join.

Our purpose is to enhance the quality of life for all Queensland communities by advancing the skills, knowledge, resources available to those involved in the planning and provision of public works and services.

[www.ipweaq.com](http://www.ipweaq.com)

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Queensland

**IPWEA**

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
ENGINEERING AUSTRALASIA

# EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2017

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE  
IN PUBLIC WORKS

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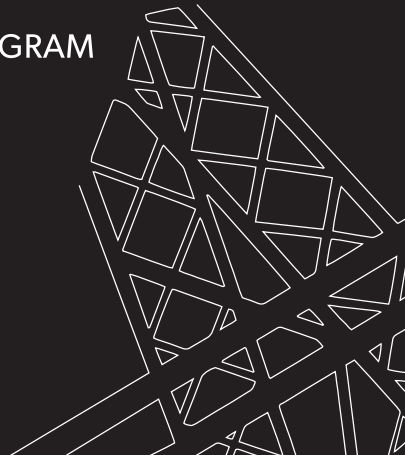
## WINNER

**WATER PROJECTS  
UNDER \$2 MILLION**

AWARDED TO

**OUTBACK REGIONAL  
WATER ALLIANCE**

REGIONAL OUTBACK  
WATER QUALITY  
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM





**IPWEAQ**  
**EXCELLENCE**  
**AWARD**

*Winner*