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At its most stripped-down, urban planning is the design and regulation of spaces and places where our communities can thrive, even in the face of challenges from our changing climate, global pandemics and economic shocks.

Planning’s breadth and complexities arise because its practitioners strive to ensure towns, cities and regions are developed sustainably, foster equity, fairness and access.

Planners want to make economic, environmental and social progress for current as well as future generations.

That’s not easy to do when new technologies are unfolding rapidly, when our populations are growing and demanding new choices and options.

For planning to respond by enabling and driving sustainable development, it must be creative, enhancing, and constantly improving.

The Planning Institute of Australia's National Awards for Planning Excellence showcase these attributes, and more, across a range of areas and environments and celebrates the best that planning can be.

The awards start with state and territory judges selecting the best examples of planning in their jurisdictions. The winners of eligible categories across Australia are then elevated for judging by a national panel, culminating in the National Awards for Planning Excellence ceremony.

When we celebrate our high achievers we not only show that #planningmatters but we inspire each other to always aim high. With that in mind, I commend 2020’s success stories to you.

David Williams
Chief Executive Officer

The many thousands of communities across this diverse country each have their own unique character, opportunities and challenges.

It should come as no surprise, then, that the nominations for PIA’s National Awards for Planning Excellence 2020 demonstrate a wide range of approaches to solving planning challenges of all kinds.

From Broome in the tropical north of Australia down to Hobart in the south, we have had so many high-quality nominations – over 60 outstanding entries across 12 categories – that the task of selecting the “best of the best” has proved extremely difficult.

All the entries emphasised the high quality of planning outcomes that our members are dedicated to achieving for their clients and for our communities around Australia.

Selecting winners based on the criteria set out for each award category is a complex task requiring thoughtful consideration of a large volume of material.

That said, it is a privilege and a pleasure to be able to consider such an impressive body of work.

To all our judges who have devoted so many hours of their time to assessing and debating the relative merits of each entry, I would like, on behalf of the Institute, to express my great appreciation and thanks.

I would also like to congratulate all of this year’s finalists, and particularly National Award winners and those who’ve received commendations.

Each of them have provided us with “blueprints” of how we can excel in our profession – and they deserve our highest acclamation.

Steve O’Connor RPIA (Fellow)
President and National Awards Convenor

MESSAGE FROM THE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT AND NATIONAL AWARDS CONVENOR
NATIONAL JUDGES

STEVE O’CONNOR RPIA (FELLOW)
Steve holds an undergraduate planning degree as well as a postgraduate Masters degree in environmental studies. He has worked in local government in NSW, in the public service in the Northern Territory and more recently in the private sector on a wide range of projects.

Steve is a Fellow of PIA, a Registered Planner and in 2010 was appointed by the NSW Minister for the Environment to the Natural Resources Advisory Council (NRAC). In 2015 he was appointed to the NSW Independent Planning Commission by the NSW Minister for Planning, a position he still holds.

Steve has served as a Director on PIA’s National Board since 2013 and was elected as National President in 2018 after serving four years as a National Vice-President. Steve has written numerous articles for PIA publications and is passionate about his profession. He has performed the role of a judge in planning awards at State and National levels.

PETER Ciemitis MPIA (FELLOW)
Peter is Principal and lead urban designer in the Robertsday Perth Studio. Awarded PIA Planner of the Year (WA) in 2014, he specialises in the design of urban centres, urban infill, waterfronts and residential development. His additional grounding in the arts and culture drives Peter to make places which embody inspired creativity, layered social meaning and pragmatic implementation. He is a sought-after advisor in the industry, having held key positions on over 20 Committees, Panels and Boards, including currently serving on the State Design Review Panel.

ELLE CLOUSTON MPIA
Elle has over 12 years’ experience working in the public and private sector in NSW and Queensland. Specialising in strategic planning, Elle aims to bridge the gap between economics, planning and design. Elle has contributed to award winning planning policy work, having undertaken advisory services for various government and private sector organisations across Australia. Elle is an accredited member of the International Association for Public Participation Australasia (IAP2) and is an active committee member of the NSW PIA Division Committee, Property Council NSW Residential Committee and is on the Editorial Team and writes a regular column for the PIA New Planner magazine.

ANDREW CONNOR RPIA
Andrew has 13 years’ experience in statutory and strategic planning projects across the ACT and NSW. He has worked in the private sector, Commonwealth Government and NSW local government, managing complex planning projects and studies, facilitating Design Review Panels and providing expert court evidence. Andrew is a strong advocate for evidence-based and place-led planning that is informed by collaboration between community, government and industry and delivers positive planning outcomes for people and communities.

DONNA FERRETTI RPIA (LIFE FELLOW)
Donna is an urban and regional planner with over 30 state and local government, the private sector and as an academic teaching planning at the University of South Australia. She has particular skills in strategic planning, social planning, development assessment, policy planning and community/stakeholder engagement for which she has won a number of State and National planning awards.

A PIA Life Fellow, Donna has served on numerous boards and committees and is committed to developing and championing the planning profession across Australia – a commitment which is underpinned by an ethic of environmental responsibility and social inclusion.

MEDINA HANDLEY MPIA
Medina has over 15 years’ of wide ranging experience in local government, state government, consultancy and academia. She has worked in strategic planning, development assessment, policy development, environment, resources, infrastructure and major project roles.

Medina has Masters qualifications in Urban and Regional Planning and Environmental Management, and a Bachelor of Science (Ecology and Geographical Sciences).

Medina is passionate about best practice and has been the PIA Queensland Awards Convenor for the last seven years.

SANDRA HOGUE RPIA (FELLOW)
Sandra has over 30 years’ experience in strategic planning, heritage, environmental and resource management, program and project management, and stakeholder engagement. A Fellow of PIA, she is currently a Senior Planning Consultant with the Tasmanian Planning Commission, and a member of the Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal. Sandra is actively involved in Tasmanian planning reform having been a member of the Panel that reported to the Minister on the State Planning Provisions and is coordinating assessments of the 29 Local Provisions Schedules forming part of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

JOHN PETRAKOS RPIA
John is a Registered Planner with over 10 years’ experience in strategic planning and policy. Currently working at the Victorian Planning Authority, John oversees a number of projects in regional Victoria. The work requires collaboration with local government and many agencies to achieve balanced outcomes and drive projects to completion.

John is active in the Planning Institute of Australia having held numerous positions over the last five years. John is currently Vice President of the Victorian division of PIA and a Divisional Representative on the National Policy and Advocacy Committee.
The Planning Institute of Australia – and before it, the Royal Australian Planning Institute – has proudly championed planning professionals in Australia and internationally since 1951. PIA is the only national organisation representing urban and regional planners in Australia, and our goal is to support planners to create a more liveable and sustainable built environment.

Good planning creates and connects us with places that enhance our health, wellbeing and happiness. It ensures our natural and built environments are resilient and able to respond effectively to emerging megatrends like increased urbanisation and climate change.

Planners – highly qualified and ethical professionals with a broad range of skills and knowledge – are central to delivering great planning outcomes for all our communities. PIA supports, educates and encourages planners at all stages of their careers through university accreditation, mentoring and professional development programs. Through advocacy, collaboration and influence-building, PIA champions planning’s key role in creating communities where fairness, equity and access are fundamental and paramount.

Our business is built on a foundation of good governance, efficient and effective systems, member support services and financial sustainability.

For more information on PIA or to become a member, go to planning.org.au

ABOUT PIA:
AUSTRALIA’S TRUSTED VOICE ON PLANNING

NATIONAL BOARD

President
Steve O’Connor RPIA (Fellow)

Vice-President / South Australia
Cate Hart RPIA (Fellow)

Vice-President / Queensland
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Australian Capital Territory
Rebecca Gallacher RPIA

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Jenny Rudolph RPIA (Fellow)

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Victoria
Nicola Smith RPIA (Fellow)

Western Australia
Ray Haeren MPIA (Fellow)

Young Planner Director
Natalia Weglarz MPIA

DIVISION PRESIDENTS

Australian Capital Territory
Ian Wood-Bradley MPIA

New South Wales
Juliet Grant RPIA (Fellow)

Northern Territory
Catriona Tatam MPIA

Queensland
Wendy Evans MPIA (Fellow)

South Australia
Elinor Walker MPIA

Tasmania
Michael Purves MPIA

Victoria
Gareth Hately MPIA

Western Australia
Lex Barnett MPIA (Fellow)
ERA Planning and Environment is a Tasmanian based, multi-skilled team of experts who are passionate about our role in shaping the future. Our work is collaborative and extends from statutory and strategic planning, tourism and recreation planning, environmental impact assessments and approvals to community and stakeholder engagement.

We bring to our clients a depth of knowledge and experience, a strong professional reputation and the benefit of key networks and strategic relationships. We believe in integrity and follow through on our assurances. We are committed to high quality, innovative, evidence-based solutions and shared outcomes.

We value teamwork and collective experience, working together with clients, other disciplines, the community, regulators and infrastructure providers to have a positive impact on our cities, towns and regions.

We listen, before we plan and do.

eraplanning.com.au

SRH

We’re a film production and streaming studio. And we’re big fans of Planning.

As content producers for PIA’s Awards over the years, we’ve seen some of the projects that are making a difference to communities, cities and regions.

And as film makers with an interest in place, the built environment and the public realm, we’ve helped to share stories about the transformative effect of great design.

We love to promote planning, urban design and architecture – through our film and corporate video work, our content for screen and live streaming services.

That’s why we’re proud to be production partners for the 2020 National Awards for Planning Excellence, helping to find a way to come together – to matter where we may be – to celebrate the achievements of Planners across Australia.

srh.com.au

Tract

Tract is a national planning and design practice specialising in town planning, urban design, landscape architecture and associated digital media.

We work in partnership with our clients to create sustainable and memorable solutions, shaping places for living, leisure, education and work and the infrastructure that supports and connects these places.

Harnessing the strength and diversity of our collective expertise, our comprehensive planning and design services, and the scale and pedigree of our practice provide the capacity to address projects of all complexities.

After 40 years of practice, we continue to evolve so that we shape contemporary thinking, working in partnership with our clients to deliver compelling solutions.

tract.com.au
Colin Biggers & Paisley is an Australian legal practice, focused on delivering a full range of legal services in Australia and abroad, through our 70 partners and more than 450 people across our offices in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne.

We are proud of our long-standing relationships with many of Australia’s most respected and successful companies. We are the lawyers of choice in the construction, property and insurance industries and maintain a strong presence in the areas of banking and finance, class action defence, corporate and commercial, employment and safety, energy, mining and resources, and government.

We fulfil our role as global citizens through our Colin Biggers & Paisley Foundation which brings together our entire community offering and comprises three streams - pro bono legal services, volunteering and charitable contributions.

cbp.com.au

Planned Cover services the insurance and risk management requirements of the majority of Australia’s design and construction professionals through the availability of a unique range of products and value-added services. We are proud to also be the endorsed insurance provider for the Planning Institute of Australia.

As an award-winning insurance brokerage, Planned Cover offers:

• Insurance products such as professional indemnity, directors and officers, employment practices, general & personal insurance products, cyber insurance and more
• Risk management: seminars, online CPD education and Practice Notes
• Claims management

Our qualified brokers, underwriters, claims managers and risk managers have extensive technical skills and a thorough understanding of what construction professional services involve.

Talk to us about how to protect your business assets and professional liability.

plannedcover.com.au

The Comms Team is a Brisbane-based communications consultancy specialising in transport, infrastructure, land-use planning and water projects. With our extensive experience on state and local government planning projects, we provide strategic advice, manage communications and undertake stakeholder engagement and community consultation across all project stages.

With a team of almost 40 experienced professionals, we have been involved in many significant infrastructure, planning and urban development projects in Queensland, and interstate.

Our dedicated communications professionals work alongside our internal graphic design studio to design, develop and deliver digital and visual communication solutions that support our client's strategic objectives.

From state-wide and regional projects to localised initiatives and consultations we bring highly relevant knowledge and experience to all our work, for our clients and our communities.

thecomsteam.com.au

At Urbis, we have one simple goal – to shape the cities and communities for a better future. It’s something we achieve by drawing together a network of the brightest minds. Think of Urbis as a creative community of practice experts, working collaboratively to deliver fresh thinking and independent advice and guidance – all backed up by real, evidence-based solutions.

So, what does this mean for you? Whether you engage with us in the areas of planning, design, policy, heritage, valuations, transactions, economics or research, you know you’re dealing with the experts who will connect you to a better outcome, every time.

We help you achieve remarkable, sustainable outcomes – places or policies that work, that make our cities and communities better.

urbis.com.au

Walker Corporation is Australia’s largest private development company. We have over 50 years’ experience & have delivered over 1000 projects spanning Australia, and internationally. We live for the challenge of transforming vision into reality.

We have expertise across all property sectors such as major mixed use developments, residential and master planned communities, retail, commercial, industrial and resort living.

Our team includes many disciplines including town planners, architects, engineers, infrastructure specialists, lawyers and project managers.

We have a project pipeline of $25 billion of work to complete in the next 15 years and we plan to deliver 40,000 lots, 11 commercial towers, 25,000 dwellings in Malaysia and 6,000 apartments in Australia.

Our proven track record is evident in our completed projects and extensive pipeline of future projects.

walkercorp.com.au
2020 AWARD WINNERS & COMMENDATIONS
PLANNER OF THE YEAR

CATEGORY SPONSOR: PLANNING INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

Awarded to recognise a planner who provides leadership and has made a significant recent contribution to advancing the profession.

AWARD:
NIKKI HUDDY RPIA (FELLOW), QLD

The judging panel was unanimous in their decision to award Nikki Huddy Planner of the Year in recognition of her advocacy of planning in the media and for demonstrating a high level of community connectedness.

Nikki is a passionate public voice for planning in regional Queensland through her monthly and bimonthly talk back radio program with an audience reach of 325,000 across far north and Cape York, a bimonthly magazine column/social media platform that reaches approximately 90,000 people per month locally, across Australia and internationally that addresses contemporary planning challenges in the Cairns region and her own social media platforms.

Nikki also plays an important mentor role for young regional planners, has lectured at James Cook University, is a committee member of the TNQ PIA branch, is a Registered Planner, Fellow of PIA and Queensland’s inaugural 2019 Queensland Woman in Planning Award.

For supporting young planners, extending the reach of planning to the general public and dedicating a career to planning beyond her usual day job, the judges congratulate Nikki on her achievements and for being the worthy recipient of the 2020 National Planner of the Year.
YOUNG PLANNER OF THE YEAR

CATEGORY SPONSOR: PLANNING INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA
Awarded to recognise outstanding contribution or achievement by a Young Planner.

AWARD: LAURA OAKLEY PIA (ASSOC.), NSW
Formerly a practising oncology nurse, the Young Planner of the Year started her career as a planner in response to the impact that an unsupportive built environment can have on public health. In her former career, she found it evident that her patients’ quality of life was impacted by their inability to be active in their communities as a result of car-dependent environments.

Laura brings her unique pairing of nursing and planning experience to the health policy sector, where she practises as a planner for the Heart Foundation. She goes above and beyond to seek opportunities to speak out about the role that planners can play in supporting human health and wellbeing through design of the built environment.

This year’s Young Planner regularly writes pieces to the Healthy Active by Design newsletter, advocates for healthy built environments across different industries at a range of working groups in her state, facilitates healthy planning workshops across regional areas, and contributed to the development of a framework to guide engagement between Active Living NSW and the local government sector. She is also a member of the PIA Young Planners Network Committee and the state’s PIA Policy Committee.

This young planner’s passion for, and work towards creating healthy built environments, has the capacity and potential to provide benefits on a national scale.

Laura Oakley, this year’s Young Planner of the Year is well deserving of this honour and is congratulated for her contributions to the profession.

COMMENDATION: STEPHANIE BROKENSHIRE PIA (ASSOC.), WA
In her role as a planner at the City of Kalamunda, Stephanie has demonstrated considerable passion and knowledge with regards to environmental and strategic planning.

She is a great advocate for Tiny Houses and has successfully shared her knowledge and understanding about this new built form typology at the City of Kalamunda and more broadly through presentations and her blog: Matchbox Mansions

Stephanie’s dedication to professional development and the planning profession is notable, and she is a fantastic role model for young planners.
PLANNING CHAMPION

CATEGORY SPONSOR: SRH COMMUNICATIONS

Recognising a non-planner for their advocacy or lasting contribution to the urban and regional environment.

AWARD:

PLANNING MATTERS ALLIANCE TASMANIA (PMAT), TAS

The Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania (PMAT) is a strong model for uniting community groups to think about and engage with planning frameworks. The breadth of community groups and individuals engaging with PMAT demonstrates the organisation’s reach, and the platform of six key principles clearly focuses on promoting good planning outcomes.

This engagement of a broad cross-section of the community has raised overall understanding of the importance and application of planning. The range of public issues pursued and the corolling of some 60 community groups into the Alliance has increased the interest and power of these groups to value planning.

PMAT fosters debate and discussion, which has the effect of questioning current processes and provides an interesting model for bringing together a wide range of community and not-for-profit organisations under a single umbrella to engage with the planning process, a model that can be replicated elsewhere.

The role PMAT has played in educating the community about the new Tasmanian Planning Scheme and a strong advocacy for the planning profession has increased understanding of what planning is about and how it relates to broader issues like climate change.

Overall, PMAT has become a key voice in championing planning discussions.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

CATEGORY SPONSOR: COLIN BIGGERS & PAISLEY LAWYERS

Awarded to recognise initiatives in best practice public engagement that achieves an outstanding and innovative contribution to social planning processes and outcomes.

AWARD:

THE SPIT MASTER PLAN - CONFLICT TO CONSENSUS

PROJECT TEAM:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DEVELOPMENT, MANUFACTURING INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING, JOHN GASKELL PLANNING CONSULTANTS, DEICKE RICHARDS, ASPECT STUDIOS, ARTICULOUS, CITY OF GOLD COAST, GOLD COAST WATERWAYS AUTHORITY, QLD

From the outset, the challenge for The Spit Master Plan project was to deliver a plan that balanced the aspirations of a divided community, with the need to achieve a wide range of environmental, economic, social and cultural outcomes.

This project utilised a broad range of methods and a bottom up, rather than top down approach which demonstrated the value of the community’s needs and aspirations.

The Master Plan’s success is a product of good governance across all levels of government/private/community groups, planning excellence and a commitment to genuine community engagement. This project took advantage of and built on the legacy and learnings of previous projects proposed at The Spit, and applied it in a way that did not prejudice the future potential of the Master Plan, which repaired and developed trust with the local community and other stakeholders.

The project particularly demonstrated the value of real community engagement and participation, with over 23,000 pieces of feedback generated, with participants and the Gold Coast community voicing their strong support following the release of the final plan. The community played an active role at key decision points and was integrally involved at each stage of the master planning process – delivering a master plan developed ‘by the community, for the community’.

This has overcome community scepticism, provided transferable lessons for planning for contested places and demonstrates the importance of planning to the wider community.
**Cutting Edge Research and Teaching**

**Category Sponsor:** Planning Institute of Australia

For outstanding achievement in planning scholarship, research or teaching.

**Award:**

**Re-casting Terra Nullius Blindness: Empowering Indigenous Protocols and Knowledge in Australian University Built Environment Education**

**Project Team:**

Professor David Jones MPIA (Deakin University), Emeritus Professor Darryl Low Choy RPIA (Fellow) (Griffith University), Associate Professor Grant Revell (University of Western Australia), Associate Professor Scott Heyes (University of Canberra), Associate Professor Richard Tucker (Deakin University) & Dr Susan Bird (Central Queensland University), VIC

The project comprehensively reviewed Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Australian built environment professionally accredited courses.

These included urban planning, architecture and landscape architecture. The review identified major gaps in university and professional institute policy comprehension, policy execution and rhetoric, and major contrasting values and expectations by students, academics, practitioners and professional institute representatives. These uncertainties, mixed messages, failures to execute and a general lack of knowledge and expertise are a significant concern. To address these challenges, the research makes far reaching recommendations and includes a resource guide for educators to aid and enhance the scaffolding of Indigenous Knowledge Systems to facilitate policy change within universities and professional institutes.

This substantial research into professional education makes an outstanding contribution to the understanding of this important issue, which is highly relevant to planning in Australia. The work demonstrates how evidence-based research can provide a strong basis for fundamental change to policy and practice, extending across university education, accreditation criteria and practice. The project represents innovation in its appraisal of the nature and quality of professionals’ understanding of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and goes on to offer clear recommendations that can scaffold change within courses and professional institution education. It also recognises existing excellence in indigenous engagement and respect, including continuing indigenous oversight of the project, while engaging with a variety of agencies and accrediting bodies. The resulting Report now represents a valuable resource base, while the Education Guide informs, aids and facilitates positive change in university education.

**Commendation:**

**Connecting Systems of Secondary Cities: How Soft and Hard Infrastructure Can Foster Equitable Economic Growth Among Secondary Cities**

**Project Team:**

Brian H Roberts MPIA (Fellow), Urban Frontiers, Cities Alliance, QLD

This transnational study sheds light on one of the most pressing challenges confronting planning and development professionals today: how best to manage rapid population growth during a period of intensifying global urbanisation. Drawing on well documented case studies from across the globe, and making use of original mapping and interpretive diagrams, the study demonstrates how secondary cities can play a crucial role in meeting this challenge. By advocating for public investment decisions to be based on a proper consideration of demographic, economic, social, environmental and physical elements, a convincing case is made for systematic and collaborative decentralisation to create more liveable, human-scaled, polycentric regional and metropolitan settlement.

By informing and convincing metropolitan and regional decision makers about the advantages and techniques of planned decentralisation, this study should help pave the way to better practice in this important field.
COMMENDATION:
DESIGNING THE GLOBAL CITY: DESIGN EXCELLENCE, COMPETITIONS AND THE REMAKING OF CENTRAL SYDNEY

PROJECT TEAM:
ROBERT FREESTONE RPIA (FELLOW), GETHIN DAVISON, RICHARD HU RPIA, NSW

A highly original piece of scholarly research exploring outcomes at the interface of planning and urban design policy in NSW. It is a major study of the experience of the City of Sydney’s pursuit of design excellence for major private developments through competitive processes.

The research resulted in a book called - Designing the Global City: Design Excellence, Competitions and the Remaking of Central Sydney (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019) by Robert Freestone (UNSW), Gethin Davison (UNSW) and Richard Hu (U Canberra) which explores how design excellence enhances economic competitiveness through creating a superior built environment.

The book examines nearly 50 approved and completed projects since 2000 in the Sydney CBD through a ‘mixed-methods’ approach including 60 intensive interviews with key stakeholders. The key processes studied revolve around good design governance with implications for integrated decision-making, public engagement, and the critical trade-off between commercial profitability and enhancing the public domain through quality urban, architectural and landscape design.

The judges commended the substantial evidence provided on best practice and benefits of early intervention and collaboration in the design process. The research provides critical and detailed analysis, demonstrating how it can be implemented in other cities, particularly of a global scale. It provides a significant contribution to the built environment for improving and enhancing design quality.

BEST PLANNING IDEAS - SMALL PROJECT

CATEGORY SPONSOR: THE COMMS TEAM

Awarded to recognise outstanding planning ideas for a project that is limited to a site, local place or neighbourhood.

AWARD:
MANDINGALBAY YIDINJI ECO INFRASTRUCTURE TOURISM PROJECT

PROJECT TEAM:
MANDINGALBAY YIDINJI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION, ETHOS URBAN, PHILIP FOLLENT ARCHITECTS, CHCHANGE SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS, BMT GLOBAL, BLIGH TANNER, BENNETT + BENNETT, QLD

The Mandingalbay Yidinji Eco Infrastructure Tourism Project is a standout project that exemplifies true innovation, originality, transferability and engagement. It provides an exemplary example of delivering cultural and ecotourism facilities that marries indigenous cultural knowledge and visioning with contemporary engineering, science, planning and traditional owner land management.

The project is unique, being entirely indigenous led, owned and operated. Early works have commenced and it is expected the project will open in late 2021. The innovation and progressive approach to the project’s governance model which drove the collaborative approach from stakeholders across all levels of government and private industry is highly commended.

The partnership with the project consultants documenting and upholding the Mob’s interest, is considered to be highly transferrable to other projects of all scales.

The judges also noted the restriction of businesses anticipated to occur within the project, is a bold move that will have an interesting consequence in shaping the future of this project. Participation and engagement from a grass roots level instilled realistic and viable delivery of the project being run through the Mob into the future.
**BEST PLANNING IDEAS - LARGE PROJECT**

**CATEGORY SPONSOR:** URBIS

Awarded to recognise outstanding planning ideas for a large project that has town or city, regional, state-wide, national or cross-jurisdiction benefit.

**AWARD:**

**BALLARAT’S CREATIVE CITY STRATEGY AND CREATIVE PRECINCT MASTER PLAN**

**PROJECT TEAM:**

CITY OF BALLARAT WITH SGS ECONOMICS AND PLANNING, MGS ARCHITECTS, LEFT BANK CO., ELENI ARBUS & MARY PAPAIOANNOU, VIC

This project seamlessly integrates complex social and economic considerations into an accessible land use and economic development strategy, integrated with a master plan. It brings new thinking to an old problem, using the notion of a ‘spark’ to ignite and drive creative city thinking with grass roots, practical, yet innovative ideas. It is a model that the judges consider can be used in a range of places, notably towns and regional cities across Australia as they grapple with growing their local economies and improving liveability.

The judges were particularly impressed with the building of community ownership of the project, putting people at the forefront of the planning process. This included a collaborative design process, a democratic evaluation of priorities to be delivered and implementation strategies involving community, businesses and government. The integrated plans have viable and realistic outcomes with early ‘quick wins’ through events, a website, creative database and local magazine. There is also evidence of a continued commitment to deliver the project with a project officer appointed and many physical and creative employment projects underway.

The project grapples with very big ideas into deliverable and accessible measures that create genuine community ownership and civic pride for people and businesses to invest in the future of Ballarat.

**COMMENDATION:**

**BUILDING HEIGHT STANDARDS REVIEW PROJECT**

**PROJECT TEAM:**

LEIGH WOOLLEY - ARCHITECT & URBAN DESIGN CONSULTANT, TOBY WOOLLEY - ARCHITECTURAL GRADUATE, TAS

This project establishes planning guidelines through qualitative analysis, urban morphology study and evidence-based methodologies. It uses an innovative framework, drawing on an extensive body of research carried out over more than 30 years. Integrating an appreciation of the landform experience of the city into planning and urban design policy, Woolley’s unique methodology is generated from the particularities of Hobart. While this approach inspires a specific way of thinking about places, it is also applicable to other locations and brings new ways of understanding places.

Integrating planning provisions that focus on managing amenity with an understanding of the landform, the report identifies particular aspects to be addressed in future development. The report provides a road map for future development that engages with the significant landscape and heritage context of Hobart, while acknowledging economic drivers. It anticipates a future urban density within a framework acknowledging and respecting the city’s unique character and sense of place. The work has been partially implemented and continues to promote an aspirational approach for future city thinking centred on enduring civic values.
HARD WON VICTORY

CATEGORY SPONSOR: TRACT
Recognises a planning initiative, effort or leadership that has resulted in positive planning outcomes in the face of difficult or trying circumstances.

AWARD: REVITALISATION OF HOWARD SMITH WHARVES
PROJECT TEAM: BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL, HOWARD SMITH WHARVES, QLD

The Revitalisation of Howard Smith Wharves is a project that has applied innovative solutions to planning challenges over a 17 year journey. This project has persevered through changes in government, changes in planning schemes, flooding of the Brisbane River and changes in community expectations.

Located beneath the Storey Bridge and the iconic cliffs of Brisbane, the Howard Smith Wharves project breathes life into one of Brisbane’s most historic sites. The project provides access to the river for locals and visitors, through green outdoor recreation areas and vibrant dining and entertainment opportunities. The design has captured the historic significance, the iconic location and provides linkages to the Storey Bridge and the New Farm River Walk.

The development has provided a $200 million investment in Brisbane, unlocked from a $7 million investment by Brisbane City Council.

Physical constraints, constraints from the land transfer, and sensitivities for the surrounding community needed to be overcome. The revitalisation could not have been delivered without the strong partnership between Council and the development industry, and the robust planning process undertaken.

It is a testament to the integrity of the idea and the commitment to the vision, that the Howard Smith Wharves have been redeveloped into a world class waterfront open space. The guidance from project champions, and the ongoing community engagement has delivered a project that reflects the community and the location.

COMMENDATION: STRATHNAIRN ALL-ELECTRIC SUBURB
PROJECT TEAM: GINNINDERRY JOINT VENTURE - RIVerview PROJECTS (ACT) PTY LTD AND SUBURBAN LAND AGENCY, ACT

Ginninderry’s first suburb – Strathnairn, will be the first Canberra suburb with homes designed to be all electric.

Ginninderry is paving the way for an innovative, more efficient energy system in which the Government, industry, environment and residents benefit. Strathnairn will have a suite of Home Energy Requirements including solar panels and future-proofing for battery storage.

The All-electric Energy Pilot Project is the outcome of three years of work between various parties to deliver a best practice residential energy solution for Ginninderry.
IMPROVING PLANNING PROCESSES AND PRACTICES

CATEGORY SPONSOR: ERA PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
Awarded to recognise the achievements of translating good planning policy into improved processes and practices in the workplace and “on the ground”.

AWARD: DEVELOPMENT.i
PROJECT TEAM: SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL, QLD

The Sunshine Coast Council’s Development.i is an innovative web platform that has replaced an existing web-based information platform. Development.i was developed by Council in response to the needs of a variety of stakeholders with a view towards making the system more user-friendly and responsive to specific needs. While it provides information comparable to that previously available through the web-based platform, with expanded data sets, it does so in a manner that can be easily interrogated through a selection of filters that allow the results to be viewed in a form that suits any user. The platform, including the expanded data sets, has been made available by Council at no cost to users.

Development.i is not dependent on Council’s corporate property or GIS systems, and is scalable to allow its adoption by other external organisations by allowing the integration of other data and business needs.

Development.i is highly innovative and clearly demonstrates an improvement to planning process and practice which has wide-ranging benefits to all users. Development.i sets a new Australian benchmark for how councils can present planning and development information and engage with the community. It is expected that other commercial products and options will emerge now that market demand has been identified and Sunshine Coast Council has navigated a pathway for others to follow with confidence.

COMMENDATION: DESIGN WA STAGE ONE
PROJECT TEAM: WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PLANNING COMMISSION SUPPORTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, LANDS AND HERITAGE, WA

Design WA is a landmark policy framework that repositions WA planning from standardised design and compliance process, to a spatially literate mechanism to pursue aspirational built form outcomes.

Extensive engagement on Design WA has built cross-industry acceptance that good design policy, good design expertise and timely design review are central to good planning. The massive undertaking and the comprehensive suite of policies and frameworks created has positioned planning to meet emerging challenges, particularly in managing physical changes in our cities and suburbs. Design WA simultaneously allows for innovation through greater planning flexibility and the need for improved design to meet increasing community expectations.
OUTSTANDING STUDENT PROJECT

CATEGORY SPONSOR: PLANNING INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

Awarded to recognise outstanding planning work by a tertiary student.

AWARD: RECONCEPTUALISING THE CREATIVE ECONOMY: POSSIBILITIES IN PLACE IN RURAL VICTORIA

NOMINEE: DR MELISSA KENNEDY
MPIA, COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, LA TROBE UNIVERSITY, VIC

Melissa's research explores an emerging concept in planning discussions – the role of the creative economy in responding to decline in cities and regions. It is an outstanding piece of original research and should be celebrated for its contribution to the emerging ‘creative regeneration’ planning discourse.

Creative regeneration is an emerging field of interest as demonstrated by this work’s transferability to projects within Australia and overseas. The findings have the opportunity to benefit planners and communities that are experimenting with creative regeneration at a town, suburb or district level in both rural and metropolitan areas.

The research challenges the application of standard typologies that roll out a generic blueprint of creative places which benefit a narrow subset of the community. Using the towns of Clunes and Mildura in Victoria, the research reveals that communities are experimenting with revitalisation through global networks involving book towns and Slow Food and in doing so, re-shaping local environments and economies around place-based concerns. Three major findings emerged from the research. Rural decline is not an inevitable fact, nor is there a creative class that can solve rural decline. Instead, decline presents an opportunity to mobilise community networks around reimagining resource use and economic futures. Secondly, place history and geography play a role in shaping creative economies, and the legacy of past economic structures and planning provides a fertile ground for new possibilities. Thirdly, community governance of place-based resources as a ‘commons’ demonstrates how resource care can be coupled with new economic opportunities. Melissa’s research provides important insights for planners and policy makers in showing how place matters in generating new possibilities through the creative economy. The project grapples with very big ideas into deliverable and accessible measures that create genuine community ownership and civic pride for people and businesses to invest in the future of Ballarat.

Bunfu’s writing is clear and succinct and she communicates using graphical elements to effectively demonstrate her project. Her analysis looks beyond the data, going further to extrapolate what it means for the future by suggesting very practical solutions which could be taken up by policy makers.

AWARD: THE ROLE OF SPATIAL PLANNING IN ENERGY PROVISION

NOMINEE: BUNFU YU
MPIA, TAS

This is a very high standard of work for a Masters’ student. It includes a thorough methodology for all aspects of the research, data gathering and interpretation. A clear methodology and framework allow for replication of the research.

The use of a systematic literature review is in itself a very useful output as it efficiently brings together a broad range of issues. Another benefit of the systematic literature review is that it also reveals best practice examples. The research and recommendations are highly relevant and infinitely transferable to places around the country, as private industry and government all look to ways to change the energy market and mix. Energy infrastructure implementation has a definite spatial application and this timely research is highly relevant to land use planning.

The project is an extremely useful contribution to the field, highlighting in general the limits of the focus of planning on spatial issues. A similar methodology could arguably also be applied to other issues, like movement and other dynamic conditions.
FROM PLAN TO PLACE

CATEGORY SPONSOR: WALKER CORPORATION
Awarded to recognise the implementation of a plan into a successful place.

AWARD: URBAN DESIGN MANAGEMENT PLAN
PROJECT TEAM: LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL PROJECT, VIC

The Level Crossing Removal Authority's Urban Design Management Plan was prepared to guide the approach to high quality urban design from inception, through to design and construction of each of the grade separation projects being delivered across Melbourne’s rail network.

The document articulates the governance, design review process and urban design construction requirements, while further outlining the rules of engagement and the role of the Urban Design Advisory Panel within the various delivery programs, which compromises representatives of the OVGA, Heritage Victoria, VicRoads, Department of Transport and Creative Victoria.

The judges acknowledge the success of this plan and its role in constructively guiding design professionals undertaking services within the Level Crossing Removal Project program. Further, the judges acknowledge that successful implementation of the plan has established a benchmark for other agencies, including Rail Projects Victoria, North East Link and Major Roads Project Victoria, who look to the UDMP as best practice for the integration of urban design to champion the delivery of high quality urban design outcomes.

COMMENDATION: CHINATOWN REVITALISATION, BROOME
PROJECT TEAM: SHIRE OF BROOME, DEVELOPMENTWA, KIMBERLEY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, WA

This Chinatown Revitalisation project represents an incredible commitment to building community around an iconic Australian place by bringing businesses, residents, diverse cultures and other stakeholders together, underpinned by a clear framework for day-to-day operations and management. Supported by a dedicated Investment and Development Coordinator, the project has strengthened the identity and improved the amenity of the place; doing more than simply delivering a civil works program.
GREAT PLACE

CATEGORY SPONSOR: PLANNED COVER
Awarded to recognise a great place, street or neighbourhood in Australia.

AWARD: REVITALISATION OF HOWARD SMITH WHARVES
PROJECT TEAM: BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL, HOWARD SMITH WHARVES, QLD

The Revitalisation of Howard Smith Wharves reminds us of what it takes to produce something that is worthy of a great place. This iconic location acknowledges the importance of its context, both as a destination and as a place of conveyance.

The ultimate experience of Howard Smith Wharves embodies all that makes for the experience of a great place. It provides a rich blend of experiences from bustling eateries, a local brewery, hotel accommodation, conference facilities, quiet spaces for relaxation and pathways connecting between the city centre and the New Farm peninsular.

The cliffs and the river establish the prevailing context for the activities that take place in the precinct, heightening both the sense of the significance of Howard Smith Wharves in the city’s history and the drama of the vistas to the city skyline and connection to the river. Exploring the rich history of the site, the entry presents an evocative commentary of the role of the wharves. They enhance the sense of arrival and firmly and seamlessly link this previously abandoned and seemingly forgotten place with its surrounds, adding an exciting new dimension to the river city experience.

The Revitalisation of Howard Smith Wharves exemplifies the importance of a clear vision, the benefits of persistence, exploring opportunities within a constrained context, the worth of investing in quality design and the rewards that can be obtained by embracing community values.

PRESIDENT’S AWARD: TOWN OF GAWLER CIVIC CENTRE

PROJECT TEAM: TOWN OF GAWLER, SA

The Gawler Civic Centre Redevelopment project has resulted in the revitalisation of a tired civic centre through the sensitive integration of two State Heritage listed buildings. It is a sensitive redevelopment and adaptive reuse of these State Heritage Places, and includes the clever moulding of old into the new.

From a community perspective, the project has enabled multiple occupants to occupy the new premises, thus maximising the use of a range of facilities including a library, café, employment services, youth spaces, art spaces, museum and civic functions.

In recognition of its past, the redevelopment has enabled a range of historic community groups to occupy the new space and continue their association with the buildings, promoting meaningful social activities in a modern environment that respects the history of the past. At the same time this project has created a hub for economic and social enterprise that will act as a catalyst for the Gawler CBD to take its place as the business and cultural centre for the region.

The project represents an exemplar design and architectural response that is visually interesting, providing a highly accessible space for all members of the community and business and is an outstanding example of best practice in planning that will serve the community for generations to come.
2020 NATIONAL AWARDS FOR PLANNING EXCELLENCE

PLANNER OF THE YEAR
Nikki Huddy RPIA (Fellow) | QLD
Stephanie Barker MPA | NSW
Lisa Dunlop MPA | VIC
Michael McKeown RPIA (Fellow) | SA
Nicholas Temov MPA | WA

YOUNG PLANNER OF THE YEAR
Stacey Mills MPA | QLD
Laura Oakley PIA (Assoc.) | NSW
Poppy McAra PIA (Assoc.) | ACT
Lauria Caccamo PIA (Assoc.) | VIC
Nicole Siedlecki PIA (Assoc.) | SA
Stephanie Brohenskie PIA (Assoc.) | WA

PLANNING CHAMPION
Malcolm Middleton | QLD
Martin Hill | NSW
Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania (PMAT) | TAS
Kylie Fergusen | SA

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNITY PLANNING
The Spit Master Plan - Conflict to consensus | Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, John Gaskell Planning Consultants, Deicke Richards, ASPECT Studios, Articulous, City of Gold Coast, Gold Coast Waterways Authority | QLD


Ginninderry | Susan Davis of Riverview Projects (ACT) Pty Ltd | ACT

Courfield to Dandenong Level Crossing Removal Project | Caulfield to Dandenong Level Crossing Removal Project | VIC

RACT Greater Hobart Mobility Vision | The Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania | TAS

Felixstow Reserve Redevelopment | City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, Oxigen, ERA Water, Aspect Studios, Kaurina Nation Cultural Heritage Association, Paul Herzich, Integrated Heritage Services and LCS Landscapes | SA

Yanchep Lagoon Master Plan | City of Wanneroo and RobertsDay | WA

Cutting Edge Research & Teaching
Connecting Systems of Secondary Cities: How Soft and Hard Infrastructure can foster Equitable Economic Growth among Secondary Cities | Brian H Roberts MPA (Fellow), Urban Frontiers, Cities Alliance | QLD

Designing the Global City: Design Excellence, Competitions and the Remaking of Central Sydney | Robert Freestone RPIA (Fellow), Gethin Davison, Richard Hu RPIA | NSW

Re-casting Terra Nullius Blindness: Empowering Indigenous Protocols and Knowledge in Australian University Built Environment Education | Professor David Jones MPA (Deakin University), Emeritus Professor Darryl Low Choy RPIA (Fellow) (Griffith University), Associate Professor Grant Revell (University of Western Australia), Associate Professor Scott Heyes (University of Canberra), Associate Professor Richard Tucker (Deakin University) & Dr Susan Bird (Central Queensland University) | VIC

SPECULATE: collaborative place-based research | The City of Hobart and The University of Tasmania (Architecture and Design) | TAS

Bayswater Living Lab | Future Bayswater & School of Design and the Built Environment, Curtin University | WA

BEST PLANNING IDEAS - SMALL PROJECT
Mandingalbay Yidinji Eco Infrastructure Tourism Project | Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation, Ethos Urban, Philip Folland Architects, CCHange Sustainable Solutions, BMT Global, Bligh Tanner, Bennett + Bennett | QLD

Open Space Reinvestment Project - Erskine Park | Penrith City Council | NSW

Place Planning – a community led renewal | Vic Bradon, Dickson and Haig Park | City Renewal Authority, Spaced Out Place Makers, Place Laboratory, Town Team Movement, Complete Constructions (Aust) Pty Ltd, Sweet Potato, Threesides Marketing, Co-Design Studio, Right Angle Studio, Oculus, Tait Network, University of Canberra, Artslink & Gorman Arts Centre, and Dionysus | ACT

Measuring Urban Tree Canopy Cover in the City of Whittlesea | City of Whittlesea | VIC

Kelcey Tier Master Plan | ERA Planning & Environment with Playstreet for Devonport City Council | TAS

Capunda Town Square | Light Regional Council and Jensen PLUS | SA

The Free Alternative: Big Thinking About Small Housing | City of Fremantle with assistance of: Australian Urban Design Research Centre (AUDRC) and Creating Communities | WA

BEST PLANNING IDEAS - LARGE PROJECT
The Spit Master Plan | Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, John Gaskell Planning Consultants, Deicke Richards, ASPECT Studios, City of Gold Coast, Gold Coast Waterways Authority | QLD

Sydney Metro Northwest skyrain | Sydney Metro | NSW

Ballarat’s Creative City Strategy and Creative Precinct Master Plan | City of Ballarat with SGS Economics and Planning, MGS Architects, Left Bank Co., Eleni Arbus & Mary Papaloianou | VIC

Building Height Standards Review Project | Leigh Woolley - Architect & Urban Design Consultant, Toby Woolley - Architectural Graduate | TAS

Collie River Valley Trails | Shire of Collie and Andrew Dover MPA | WA

HARD WON VICTORY
Revitalisation of Howard Smith Wharves | Brisbane City Council, Howard Smith Wharves | QLD

Open Space Reinvestment Project - Erskine Park | Penrith City Council | NSW

Strathnairn All-Electric Suburb | Ginninderry Joint Venture - Riverview Projects (ACT) Pty Ltd and Suburban Land Agency | ACT

IMPROVING PLANNING PROCESSES AND PRACTICES
Development.i | Sunshine Coast Council | QLD

Bringing the vision to life: Implementing the Greater Sydney Region Plan | Greater Sydney Commission | NSW

Demonstration Housing Project | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, ACT Government | ACT

Prioritising What’s Important | City of Whittlesea Building and Planning Department | VIC

OUTSTANDING STUDENT PROJECT
Analysing housing affordability for low-socio economic households in master planned communities, Yarrabilba as a case study | Libby Hogarth PIA (Assoc.), Queensland University of Technology | QLD

Taking a walk in her shoes: understanding the experience of culturally diverse, migrant women in the public spaces of Western Sydney | Estelle Grech PIA (Assoc.) | NSW

Planning Education in the NSW School Geography Curriculum - Get them while they’re young! | Isabel Virgona PIA (Assoc.) | NSW

Reconceptualising the Creative Economy: Possibilities in Place in Rural Victoria | Dr Melissa Kennedy MPA, Community Planning and Development Program, La Trobe University | VIC

The Role of Spatial Planning in Energy Provision | Bunfu Yu MPA | TAS

FROM PLAN TO PLACE
The Coffs Harbour jetty4Shores Revitalisation Project | Coffs Harbour City Council | NSW

The Link - Ginninderry Joint Venture | Ginninderry Joint Venture - Riverview Projects (ACT) Pty Ltd and Suburban Land Agency | ACT

Urban Design Management Plan | Level Crossing Removal Project | VIC

Chinatown Revitalisation, Broome | Shire of Broome, DevelopmentWA, Kimberley Development Commission | WA

GREAT PLACE
Revitalisation of Howard Smith Wharves | Brisbane City Council, Howard Smith Wharves | QLD

Princess Street Transformation | Brimbank City Council | VIC

Town of Gawler Civic Centre | Town of Gawler | SA

Manning Community Hub | City of South Perth | WA
The Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) is the national body representing planning and the planning profession. Through education, advocacy, and professional development, PIA is the pivotal organisation serving and guiding thousands of planning professionals in their role of creating better communities.

PIA currently represents approximately 5300 members nationally and internationally, and connects with more than 7500 planners annually.

PIA’s goal is to support the Australian planning profession to create diverse, cohesive and liveable communities, vibrant economies, and sustainable places.

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