ACT Planners Recognise their Finest

The Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) ACT Division has recognised the territory's top planning professionals and the year's outstanding planning projects.

The recognition came at the PIA Awards for Planning Excellence held on Friday night in the lead up to World Town Planning Day to be celebrated globally tomorrow.

PIA ACT Division President Mr Viv Straw said the standard of this year's award entries was extremely pleasing.

"We were very impressed with some of the entries and overall the awards entries shows the standard in modern planning just continues to improve," Mr Straw said.

"I would personally like to congratulate the winners of this year's award categories and encourage planners to think about the projects they would like to enter for next years program."

Four ACT Planning projects were recognised on the night including the Humanities and Science Campus Square. This project won the "From Plan to Place' award and was presented to the National Capital Authority.

The From Plan to Place award goes to an organisation that recognises the implementation of a plan into a successful place.

The Humanities and Science Campus Square project cost $9.25m and took approximately two years from design to completion. The judges noted the project 'has a cohesive and comprehensible layout that is user-friendly to a range of user groups'.

The project grew out of a 1998 strategic review of the Parliamentary Zone that found there was a disconnect between public institutions and a need to create coherent public spaces between the institutions.

PIA is the industry body that represents and supports town planning professionals throughout Australia. The ACT Division membership comprises planners working within government (both ACT and Commonwealth), as well as the private sector and NGOs.

The Awards for Planning Excellence are held each year to recognise innovation and achievement in urban and regional planning. The awards ceremony celebrates excellence in planning projects, planning practitioners students.

Friday night's event was sponsored by the ACT Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate and GTA Consultants. Guest speakers Simon Corbell MLA, Zed Seselja MLA and Caroline Le Couteur MLA shared their views on planning.

Other winners this year were:

**SGS Economics and Planning - Canberra Office.** The Workplace Award for Consultant Planner. (Awarded to an organisation that reflects the principles of business acumen, planning professionalism, a commitment to staff development and training, and excellence in practice.)

**Brooke Yates.** The Outstanding Achievement by a Young Planner Award. (Awarded to an individual in recognition of an outstanding contribution and achievement as a young planner).

**Barry Hamilton.** The Service to the Institute Award (goes to an individual in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the profession and to the Institute).

Two commendations were also given. The Improving Planning Process and Practice Award Commendation - **National Heart Foundation ACT Division** for the Active Living Project: Time for Action.

The Public Engagement and Community Planning Award Commendation went to **AECOM Australia Pty** for the Belconnen to City Transitway Stage 1.

Media Contact: Geoff Mullins Pan Communications 0402 070 225