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This year marks the first occasion that Awards Convenors from all state and territory judging panels have come together as a collective to form a comprehensive National Awards Judging Panel. Together, the National Panel considered a total of 68 high quality entries across 13 categories, and were suitably impressed by the broad cross section of work undertaken by planner’s right across Australia and all sectors.

Themes of partnerships and community consultation, setting improved standards for best practice, urban renewal and revitalisation feature amongst a diverse range of award winners this year.

Importantly, all of the entries demonstrate the important role that planners play in bringing people and ideas together to create great places and to pave the way for sustainable and prosperous communities.

The Judging Panel would like to congratulate all those who were nominated for awards in 2016, particularly the National Award Winners, and encourage all planners to start preparing nominations for 2017.

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PIA Chief Executive Officer

Brendan Nelson MPIA CPP
PIA National President
National Awards Convenor

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PIA Chief Executive Officer

Brendan Nelson MPIA CPP
PIA National President
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ABOUT THE NATIONAL JUDGES

BRENDAN NELSON MPIA CPP
Brendan is the National President of the Planning Institute of Australia and is Director, Asia Pacific for Hawksley Consulting. Prior to this, Brendan was the General Manager, Land Use Planning with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and oversaw significant resilience projects for which he was named “Queensland Planner of the Year” in 2011 and the inaugural “Australian Planner of the Year” in 2012 by PIA. Brendan has more than 20 years’ national and international experience in the private and public sector and holds a Bachelor of Environmental Science (Griffith University) and Graduate Diploma of Urban and Regional Planning (with Distinction) from QUT. Brendan is a member of the American Planning Association and Australian Institute of Company Directors. Brendan is motivated by shaping strategic thinking in urban planning practice and has a proven ability to undertake complex planning projects with a focus on achieving and devising practical solutions. He is well known for his strong commitment to advancing and enhancing the quality of communities through clear, logical and participatory planning and stakeholder engagement. Brendan is a leading advocate for the importance of planning nationally.

ANNE MORONEY FPIA
ANNE MORONEY FPIA
ACT Division Awards Convenor 2015.

Brendan Nelson MPIA CPP

DANIEL ARNDT MPIA
Daniel is the current Director of Planning and Development at the City of Cockburn in Western Australia and has a Bachelor of Arts (Urban and Regional Studies) and a Graduate Diploma (Urban and Regional Planning) from Curtin University. He has over 25 years’ experience in local government planning, having worked for City of Swan, City of Armadale, City of Fremantle, City of Mandurah and City of Nedlands. He took up his current position at the City of Cockburn in July 2020. In these positions he has worked on numerous complex and large scale subdivision and development projects, as well as developing significant planning policy reforms. Daniel currently sits on the PIA WA Division Committee and has been the PIA (WA) State Awards Convenor for the last four years.

TONY McMULLEN MPIA CPP
Tony is the Acting Director Community, Economic Development and Business at Glenorchy City Council. He holds Bachelor of Economics, Master of Town Planning and Graduate Certificate of Management qualifications and is a Certified Practising Planner. Tony’s current substantive role is Manager City Strategy and Economic Development and he is also a member of the Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal. Previous roles include: Project Manager Planning Scheme Review and Co-ordinator of Planning Services at Glenorchy City Council, Senior Statutory Planner at Hobart City Council and Urban Planner at City of Port Phillip. Tony cites his major career achievements as Glenorchy’s Interim Planning Scheme, Interim Land Use Planning Strategy and the City of Glenorchy Community Plan.

Daniel Arndt MPIA

Tony McMullen MPIA CPP
DONNA FERRETTI FPIA CPP
Donna is an urban and regional planner with over 30 years’ experience working in 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 development, environment, resources, infrastructure and major projects roles. She has qualifications in planning, environmental management and science.

Donna is a Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia, 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 HASAN MPIA
Medina has twelve 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 projects roles. She has qualifications in planning, environmental management and science.

Medina is passionate about best practice and has been involved with the Queensland Awards for Excellence over the last four years.

JENNY RUDOLPH MPIA
Jenny is a Director of Elton Consulting leading the growing urban and regional planning practice, particularly in Sydney, Canberra and Darwin. Jenny is a town planner with over 24 years’ of experience and has worked in both the public/ government and private sectors. Jenny has extensive experience in strategic and statutory planning, project management and facilitation of small and large projects in both greenfield and infill development. Jenny provides strategic advice on the planning pathway and also undertakes community and stakeholder consultation as part of project implementation. She has been involved in the preparation and co-ordination of planning policies and major strategic planning studies, including affordable housing, providing property advice, and master planning. Jenny is most often approached to manage complex projects and for strategic planning advice on projects.

STUART MENZIES MPIA
Stuart is an urban planner with over 20 years’ experience and is Director of City Development at Brimbank City Council. Prior to working with Brimbank, Stuart held management roles at Yarra Ranges Shire Council and Nillumbik Shire Council. He has worked in China with Australian Volunteers International advising on sustainability policy and social impact assessment. He is a member of the Planning Institute of Australia (Victoria Division) Committee and Vice-President Local Government.
The Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) believes in the power of planning to shape our world. Planning supports our everyday life; connecting us with places to live, work, study and play. It supplies us with clean water and air to consume, energy to power our lives, and food with which to nourish our bodies. Planning is the tool that creates places that we love and that nurture us now and into the future. Planning matters.

PIA believes that our planning professionals are the key agents to deliver great planning. PIA exists to nurture and support the development of high-quality planning professionals. We want to inspire planners to shape the world and create great places. We are passionate about the value that planners deliver to our society through their planning and we actively advocate that to government, industry and the community.

PIA carries out a broad range of activities across the country that are all about advocating for better planning, developing high-quality planners and supporting the planning profession. For more information on PIA or to become a member, go to www.planning.org.au

President
Brendan Nelson, MPIA CPP

Australian Capital Territory
Brooke Yates, MPIA

New South Wales
Stephen O’Connor, FPIA CPP

Northern Territory
Deborah Curry, MPIA

Queensland
Damen Crambie, MPIA CPP

South Australia
Andrew Glear, FPIA CPP

Tasmania
Ian Stanley, FPIA CPP

Western Australia
Marion Thompson, MPIA

Victoria
Steve Dunn, MPIA CPP

Young Planner
Andrew Wheeler, PIA (Affiliate)

South Australia
Kym Pryde, MPIA

Queensland
Todd Rohl, MPIA

Tasmania
Alex Brownlie, MPIA CPP

Victoria
James Larmour-Reid, FPIA CPP

Northern Territory
Fiona Ray, MPIA CPP

New South Wales
Marjorie Ferguson, MPIA CPP

Western Australia
Suzanne Woolhouse, MPIA

Australian Capital Territory
Michael Jolton, MPIA
The Planning Institute of Australia would like to acknowledge the generous support of Logan City Council in being the 2016 Awards Principal Sponsor. Logan is one of the largest and fastest growing cities in Australia. Logan City Council, a progressive leader in local government, provides community services and facilities to its residents. Over 300,000 people call Logan home, and this is expected to grow by 180,000 over the next 20 years. It is a city with 217 cultures represented, hundreds of parks, a mix of rural and urban lifestyles, a warm and involved community and a range of educational, industrial and business opportunities. Logan’s vision is Building Our Communities, Our Businesses and Our Pride.

The Planning Institute of Australia would like to acknowledge the generous support of the Attorney-General’s Department in being the 2016 Awards Gold Sponsor. The Attorney-General’s Department delivers programs and policies to maintain and improve Australia’s law and justice framework, and strengthen our national security and emergency management. Through the Australian Government Solicitor, the department also provides legal services to the Commonwealth (including legal advice and representation). The department is the central policy and coordinating element of the Attorney-General’s portfolio, for which the Attorney-General and the Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Counter-Terrorism are responsible.

From project approvals through to dispute resolution, we have the experience and expertise to deliver the best commercial results for all your environment and planning requirements in Australia and across Asia. Our depth of experience enables us to offer a complete range of services, from advice on commercial transactions and infrastructure projects, to representation (including advocacy and mediation services) in complex litigation matters. We work closely with environmental scientists, engineers and commercial advisers to achieve your desired outcomes on projects or transactions.

Our experts have particular expertise in creating innovative and commercial solutions to the issues that arise from environmental liability and pollution law, the planning and regulatory requirements of major projects, and environmental risk in mergers, acquisitions and privatisations.

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Hawksley Consulting are a specialised management consulting firm dedicated to improving the world’s built and natural environment by assisting governments, utilities and asset managers to operate more efficiently, effectively and sustainably. As specialist Planning, Risk and Resilience advisors, we help our clients to be prepared for future challenges. Please visit us at www.hawksley.com for further information.

RPS’ planning team adopts an integrated approach to planning, collaborating with clients, industry, government and the community to achieve better economic, social and environmental outcomes. Operating across all market sectors for over 20 years, facilitating new trends or innovation has been a major focus – such as the emergence of big box retailing and renewable energy facilities, innovative models in industrial development and seniors housing. RPS’ planning team has specialists based in Brisbane, Sydney, Perth and Melbourne and major regional centres including Townsville, Cairns, Mackay, Whitsundays, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Newcastle. RPS works seamlessly with clients nationwide, and also delivers projects outside of established urban areas. www.rpsgroup.com.au

The Comms Team is a Brisbane-based communication consultancy that works with clients to deliver exceptional communication outcomes. We specialise in servicing both government and private clients in the areas of land-use planning, transport, infrastructure, construction and government policy. Our expertise spans communications, community consultation, stakeholder engagement and graphic design services. We service Queensland and New South Wales, with consultants based in Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sydney.

Toowoomba is one of Australia’s most attractive regions blending the best of both a city and country lifestyle. The temperate climate, strong economy, community spirit, access to arts, culture, health and education services, beautiful parks and the broader landscape is attracting new residents and business investment. Established around an agricultural sector that takes advantage of the incredible fertile farming land, the region’s economy has grown and diversified to the point that Toowoomba is the nation’s second largest inland city.

Toowoomba is also a logistics hub with a new airport, construction of the bypass and freight companies moving to the area. It is Queensland’s most family friendly city; ranked fourth nationally, based on indicators including education, income, unemployment and mortgage stress.

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Sarah Hill is a well-respected independent planner and government advisor on matters relating to urban renewal, strategic planning and governance. She has also led and completed major projects which have earned her high accolades. Sarah is an outstanding planner with significant contributions across many spheres and sectors of the planning industry. She is a member on a number of advisory committees and panels, leading major projects in the last year, such as the housing diversity study for UrbanGrowth NSW and City of Sydney, developing a draft policy to inform the NSW SEPP, and advising Cabinet on the economic and environmental impacts of major planning decisions.

Sarah was an innovative business leader at HillPDA, actively promoting women in the planning industry, and in the last two years has led the way on cultural change and raising the value of planning as a profession. We have seen Sarah in action, and acknowledge her dedication, leadership and frankness to achieving good planning blended with economic thinking in NSW. This has been recognised in her recent appointment as the CEO of the Greater Sydney Commission: a significant role that is set to shape the future of Sydney. Sarah’s nomination demonstrates not only professional achievements in the last 12 months but an ongoing commitment to PIA and to education. In an award category packed with excellent planning practitioners, Sarah’s body of work and degree of influence were standouts.

Shannon McGuire is a passionate and dedicated planner who leads by example and has emerged as a natural leader and mentor in the profession. Her inspirational work and commitment to excellence demonstrate outstanding leadership in planning, and she is an excellent ambassador for the planning profession as a whole. Shannon’s extensive experience ranges across local and state governments and the consulting industry. Her leadership of high profile and high impact projects for BuckleyVann Town Planning Consultants, such as the Solomon Islands Climate Change Adaptation Plan Integrated Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Assessment, and the Blackwood Street Affordable Housing project have received PIA Queensland and National Awards for Excellence in recent years. Shannon’s leadership in natural resource management planning has advanced the community and profession’s knowledge and understanding of complex issues such as climate change, coastal processes and dealing with development subject to a range of natural resource management challenges. She has made a real difference to communities, particularly in the areas of affordable housing and climate change resilience. Shannon recently presented on the impact planning can have in addressing climate change to the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) 2015 Resilient Cities Congress in Germany. She is deserving of a commendation for her role in leading climate change adaptation planning, successfully delivering a diverse portfolio of challenging work, and achieving remarkable results for less advantaged communities.
AWARD TO
ANDREW WHEELER
PIA (AFFILIATE)
STATE
NSW

Andrew Wheeler has achieved a great deal in his relatively short planning career to date and has provided significant input to the profession by driving debates over the last few years on health and planning. He also impresses with his considerable contribution to research and policy development in the important public policy area of planning for healthy built environments, and for his efforts toward promoting and raising the profile of planning by presenting at numerous planning and other interdisciplinary conferences.

Andrew has made significant contributions to PIA as the Managing Editor of New Planner, the National Convenor of the Young Planners Network, PIA Board Director, and sitting on various committees. He has shown an extensive commitment to the planning profession and PIA both nationally and within the NSW Division over the last 12 months.

Andrew has demonstrated an advanced grasp of complex relationships between research, policy and practice, helping raise the profile of healthy planning among public health and planning professionals. Andrew stands out among the nominees because of his seemingly indefatigable championing of the “healthy by design” issue and his contributions to the planning profession.

YOUNG PLANNER OF THE YEAR

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AWARD TO
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE ROBERT DOYLE,
LORD MAYOR OF MELBOURNE
STATE
VIC

Since being elected Lord Mayor in 2008, Robert Doyle has been a consistent advocate and supporter of quality planning and urban design through his national and international contributions within the City of Melbourne and across the wider Melbourne metropolitan area and beyond.

Under his mayoralty, there has been ongoing investment in quality urban design and infrastructure, with the City of Melbourne now a global leader in people-friendly public spaces. Through collaboration with other agencies, transport projects have been integrated into the city’s streets, including footpath-level tram stops and shielded cycle lanes.

Councillor Doyle has shown strong respect for evidence-based planning and takes bold, and sometimes controversial, decisions when these are supported by a sound case. He is also an active ambassador for the wider metropolitan area, building linkages with cities, leaders and practitioners internationally. This has helped Melbourne pursue - and contribute to - global best practice.

The City’s enviable global reputation is a powerful illustration of a strong planning-led approach resulting in a strong economy, inclusive community and enhanced environmental outcomes.

The Lord Mayor has not only been supportive of planners (both staff and consultants) but has used the profile of his position to be a clear advocate for the benefits that good planning and urban design can deliver. The value of this to planning’s reputation extends well beyond Melbourne and Australia.
AWARD TO
PAUL J. MAGINN,
MPIA (UWA),
CHRISTINE
STEINMETZ (UNSW)
PROJECT
(SUB)URBAN SEXSCAPES:
GEOGRAPHIES AND
REGULATION OF
THE SEX INDUSTRY
STATE
WA

This volume brings together a range of perspectives on the sex industry – a chronically under-researched area of planning practice. Planners are often confronted with difficult policy and assessment decisions in relation to commercial sex premises with little empirical and practical guidance on how to anticipate and then manage the array of land use implications of these premises.

This volume has taken a traditionally taboo land use and applied rigorous research and analysis to move the land use issue out of the emotive and reactive to a considered and comprehensive understanding of the forces that shape the types, economics and geography of adult sex services. It helps fill the gap by providing much-needed analysis and land use context to the nature of the sex industry and how it helps shape the character of our cities - from popular high streets, suburban shopping centres and night-time economy spaces, through to the humble home.

The book’s interrogation of the mainstreaming of various aspects of the sex industry is of particular interest to planners. While sex businesses are often viewed as problematic and inappropriate, their appearance and operation often replicate conventional or “normal” business practices. In their regulation of these spaces, however, planners are often conflicted by competing value positions brought upon them by the public and their employers. This volume provides some much-needed guidance and rationality for planners when confronting these questions, drawing on cases from across Australia, New Zealand, Europe and America.
The Creating Better Parks Policy & Plan and Walking and Cycling Strategy adopted by Brimbank City Council in 2008 have translated into an ambitious, municipal wide program transforming Brimbank's suburban neighbourhood and local parks into better places for active and passive recreation. This consistently applied program of open space improvements has had an impressive transformational impact on the community.

The project established a team of in-house urban designers and landscape architects to roll out and maintain the new spaces. Since 2008, 83 park upgrades have been completed at a cost of $20m, with a further 188 proposed. The quality and diversity of design in these upgraded parks is impressive, with BBQ and picnic facilities, a wide range of brightly coloured and robust play equipment for children, spaces for adults, and good connections to nearby community facilities.

AWARD TO
CARDNO HRP,
BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL, AVEO,
COX RAYNER ARCHITECTS
PROJECT
GASWORKS@ NEWSTEAD RIVERPARK
STATE
QLD

Gasworks@Newstead Riverpark is extraordinary for both the outcomes achieved and the evolution it has undergone since the initial structure plan was formulated in 1993. The project has evolved to respond to changing notions of best practice in planning and urban design principles, including increased density, mixed-use functions, multi-modal transport and inclusive public open spaces. Building upon multiple significant planning initiatives aiming to produce infill development; including the 1990s Building Better Cities program and associated urban renewal schemes, the 2006 Brisbane City Centre Master Plan, and the 2009 South East Queensland Regional Plan; the project has surmounted a number of challenges including fragmented site ownership, heritage and flood impact constraints.

The project as delivered is an urban infill development for a significant inner-city Brisbane brownfield site. It is unusual in that amenities, including public transport links, recreational spaces, and mixed-use retail outlets, have been established in advance of residential density and makes a significant positive contribution to urban renewal in Brisbane. This large and complex project demonstrates exceptional use of planning processes and how excellent planning outcomes can be delivered by a process that gives direction to diverse initiatives at key points over a protracted period, by a diverse range of public and private-sector actors, utilising statutory and nonstatutory mechanisms. It has transformed and renewed a well located area of land and provided opportunities, through flexible planning, for feasible outcomes that developers can work with.

AWARDED TO RECOGNISE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PLAN INTO A SUCCESSFUL PLACE.

FROM PLAN TO PLACE

AWARD TO
BRIMBANK CITY COUNCIL
PROJECT
TRANSFORMING THE PUBLIC REALM
STATE
VIC

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This approach demonstrates excellent planning practice, from strategy and policy to on the ground works, creating an accessible network of high quality parks and trails for all age groups and cultures. The project is an excellent example of how robust engagement and integration of technical areas across Council yields great outcomes.

COMMENTATION
TRANSFORMING THE PUBLIC REALM

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AWARD TO
CITY OF ONKAPARINGA
PROJECT
FRANK HILTON LANDFILL REMEDIATION PROJECT
STATE SA

The City of Onkaparinga has demonstrated an admirable resilience and commitment to working collaboratively with a diverse range of community, state and local government stakeholders to overcome a daunting array of complex environmental and economic issues to ensure the transformation of a former landfill site into one of Southern Adelaide’s most iconic and utilised public open spaces – the Frank Hilton Reserve at Maslin Beach.

The remediation of landfills and contaminated sites is difficult at the best of times, but these difficulties tend to compound when dealing with a coastal location subject to ongoing risks of leaching contaminants, exposure and subsidence of solid waste, erosion of an existing sea wall and management of stormwater and landfill gas.

Council worked collaboratively and productively with the EPA to resolve these difficulties which saw implementation costs substantially exceed the allocated budget. Rather than abandon the project, Council engineering and planning departments worked together to devise an alternative risk-based solution involving a design that enabled financially and environmentally sustainable outcomes.

The Frank Hilton Landfill Remediation Project is genuinely a Hard Won Victory in overcoming technical and budgetary challenges while exhibiting a prudent risk management approach. Faced with insufficient information to start off a project, challenges for drainage and infrastructure, limited funding which caused the project to run over a 7-year period, the former landfill site has now been remediated and converted into a well utilised community asset that provides significant public and environmental benefits.
The Yeerongpilly TOD Plan of Development is a significant example of a project that has withstood a range of significant challenges since its inception in 2010. The project displays the comprehensive and tangible benefits of planning, having overcome numerous barriers, design challenges, a changing political climate, an extreme natural disaster and a shifting planning context.

Most notably, the subject land was impacted by the 2011 Brisbane River flood. After review, the core elements of the original TOD vision and master plan were sustained as guiding principles in the Detailed Plan of Development, and the need to ensure community resilience to natural hazards became a key element of the project. The lead consultant was prepared to drop elements that were not working and remained flexible in a changing natural and political climate. The project also faced a number of internal and external challenges which were managed by the project team to deliver a comprehensive and pragmatic outcome.

Given the challenges, and subsequent successful delivery of this project, this project is deserving of a commendation.

The Greater Taree City Council has achieved significant progress in reactivating the commercial centre of Taree through their Vibrant Spaces concept. This project faced the unenviable challenge of a shopping street that was largely devoid of people and had a high number of vacancies. Council implemented a tidy up program to create a civic meeting place with seed funding that was supported by contributions from local businesses. This was followed by a Night Bazaar which saw over 5,000 people coming out to celebrate. Activity on the footpath has since increased and is now a permanent feature while the council has developed strong ongoing partnerships. By working together, the Council and community have made significant changes to their town centre.

This innovative program has allowed the council to overcome an often adversarial relationship with business owners in the city centre which was due to their previous onerous and bureaucratic approach and is now encouraging and empowering those businesses to transform their street frontages and the way they engage with the public. The Vibrant Spaces concept has revitalised the streets, reinvigorated community spirit in the town and increased confidence in the commercial rental market.
AWARD TO
LANDCORP,
CODA & URBIS
PROJECT
WGV @ WHITE
GUM VALLEY
STATE
WA

WGV @ White Gum Valley exemplifies a unique urban infill project that was achieved through the collaboration between a developer, the local government and the community. The project is an excellent example of extending beyond current subdivisional and development practices, creating a best practice blueprint for other infill sites.

The project is exceptional for its ability to demonstrate the economic, environmental and social benefits of sustainable development. It provides a range of affordable and inclusive living options, incorporates elements of the natural environment and retains a connection with the sense of place for the existing local community. All this was achieved whilst transitioning to a contemporary urban form.

This project showcases a highly innovative and environmentally responsible approach to improving diversity of housing opportunities in urban areas, with an exciting outcome from engaging different partnerships to get the best out of sustainability at an affordable price.
Urban intervention, which entails undertaking short term actions for long term change, is fast becoming a popular planning approach to improve the public domain and create places of activity.

Small temporary projects such as converting a parking bay to a public breakout area and seating, artwork on walls of empty laneways, play structures in a vacant courtyard and a large chess set in a mall made a big difference to creating a place. The small projects were so successful that when Council removed them, they received a petition signed by 600 people to retain the temporary project and install permanent livability and lovability projects.

The change in culture and a shift in the manner in which Council planned and implemented four small temporary interventions to make a huge difference in the community is impressive. This project deserves a commendation for its contribution to public life, participatory planning process and on-ground results.

The Launceston City Heart Project provided an opportunity to shape the future of one of Tasmania’s most significant social, employment and commercial precincts - the Launceston CBD. In 2014, the project team embarked on an ambitious strategy to engage thousands of stakeholders in the design and planning of long term infrastructure improvements. Using a multi-layered engagement approach including news outlets, social media, a website and place-based tools, such as pop-up workshops and wayfinding, a broad range of community members were mobilised. The project team applied a readily transferable methodology that could well serve as a blueprint or as a purposeful prototype for how approaches to urban renewal should occur.

They collaborated with stakeholders to develop playful prototypes for some of Launceston’s most prominent public spaces, including Civic Square and Brisbane Street Mall, using temporary urban furniture. These prototypes helped to activate the CBD, providing the community with a sense of ownership over the changing space and test ideas to inform strategic planning and investment decisions. The change in culture and a shift in the manner in which Council planned and implemented four small temporary interventions to make a huge difference in the community is impressive. This project deserves a commendation for its contribution to public life, participatory planning process and on-ground results.

Category Sponsor

AWARDS
BEST PLANNING IDEAS - LARGE PROJECT

AWARD TO
NSW DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT
PROJECT
SEPP 65 AND THE APARTMENT DESIGN GUIDE
STATE
NSW

The depth and breadth of apartment living space in NSW cities has increased out of necessity in response to urban growth. While recognising that the design and quality of apartment living space has improved since the introduction of the Residential Flat Design Code and associated legislation, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment undertook to enhance the practicality, usability and outcomes derived from the design code.

The resulting NSW Better Apartments Policy and Apartment Design Guide has been prepared following a process of consultation and engagement with professionals, peers, and most importantly - apartment dwellers. They provide the user with design vision at one end of the process, and compliance awareness at the other.

The focus on design while working with natural influences, especially light and ventilation is impressive, as is the consideration of affordability and housing diversity designs. In creating the Apartment Design Guide, the NSW Department of Planning & Environment has produced what is essentially a leading practice national guide on a critical topic for Australia’s future urbanisation.

AWARDED TO RECOGNISE OUTSTANDING PLANNING IDEAS FOR A LARGE PROJECT THAT HAS TOWN OR CITY, REGIONAL, STATE-WIDE, NATIONAL OR CROSS-JURISDICTION BENEFIT.
**COMMENDATION**

**SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL AND HASSELL**

**PROJECT**

**SUNSHINE COAST SHAPING OUR FUTURE**

**STATE**

**QLD**

The project recognises the potential of light rail as a catalyst for urban improvement, rethinking the existing north/south growth patterns into a series of east/west oriented coastal transit villages. The realisation of this concept will substantially change the urban form of the region’s coastal settlements, improving accessibility and integration with sustainable transport options.

This community engagement tool addresses the difficulties of securing public support for a more sustainable transport future on the basis of socio-economic prosperity and environmental responsibility. The judges strongly encourage future submissions on the project as the Sunshine Coast Light Rail journey progresses.

**COMMENDATION GUIDELINES FOR TRAIL PLANNING, DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT**

**PROJECT**

**TRC TOURISM**

**STATE**

**VIC**

The Guidelines for Trail Planning, Design and Management is a toolkit for state and local government agencies, community groups, and investors on how to plan, manage and market exceptional trail experiences. Designed for the Barwon South West Region, the guidelines create consistency in trail construction and standards to meet visitor expectations and improve visitor experience.

The project is impressive due to the extent of consultation that has been undertaken, the collaborative approach and the level of innovation shown. The guidelines provide end-to-end advice on trail making, much to the future benefit of resident and visitor trail users.

This project has produced a highly usable, transferable, practical and implementation-ready guideline for trail making and highlights a different side to planning, where tourism can promote planning and planning can in turn promote tourism. It is an innovative piece of work and provides new consideration to promoting both economics and planning.

**AWARDED TO RECOGNISE OUTSTANDING PLANNING IDEAS FOR A LARGE PROJECT THAT HAS TOWN OR CITY, REGIONAL, STATE-WIDE, NATIONAL OR CROSS-JURISDICTION BENEFIT.**

**BEST PLANNING IDEAS - LARGE PROJECT**

**CATEGORY SPONSOR**

**RPS**
Logan City Council has established an online Environmental Offset Estimator which interfaces with the existing Logan Interactive Mapping Tool. The offset calculator goes one step further than existing tools, taking the work done to categorise the quality and offset value of vegetation within the local government area, and then allowing customers to gain an immediate understanding of the impact of environmental offsets on development costs free of charge 24 hours a day.

The Estimator allows for a real-world assessment of costs and enables the realignment of development footprints in order to reduce offset costs and therefore the environmental impact of the development. The tool improves efficiency within the development assessment process by reducing delays associated with the provision of this information - greatly assisting consultants and the public during the due diligence phase of development.

In response to the State Government’s new Biodiversity Offsets Policy, the tool provides an innovative and proactive improvement in processes and practices, which could be adapted and implemented within other councils across Australia. The Estimator is an elegant solution to a complex problem and overcomes another hurdle to improved environmental outcomes.
AWARD TO
WATERNSW
PROJECT
THE NEUTRAL OR BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON WATER QUALITY (NORBE) ASSESSMENT TOOL
STATE
NSW

Protecting the quality of water sourced from Sydney’s drinking water catchment is an important social function shared equally between Government at all levels and the community. The NorBE Assessment Tool has enabled a consistent approach to the preparation of submissions and the regulatory assessment of the impact of development proposals have on the catchment environment.

Unlike many other online assessment tools, WaterNSW’s approach does more than simply transfer an existing process to an online format. The tool enables site specific modelling with sufficient scientific rigour that in most instances, decisions about stormwater and wastewater impacts can be made at the local level. This reduces costs for applicants, improves turnaround times for local authorities and enables WaterNSW to focus on proposals requiring its involvement and expertise.

The dual benefit of improving processing times and enabling better decisions are characteristic of the NorBE Assessment Tool. WaterNSW has truly created an improved planning process - a worthy recipient of a National Award for Planning Excellence.

AWARDS 43
Creating A City Within A Forest demonstrates a thorough understanding of the needs and aspirations of the community as an integral element in achieving enhanced aesthetic, liveability and environmental outcomes. In seeking to maintain Melbourne’s ‘garden city’ image while addressing broader climatic and environmental issues, this project captures the community’s passion for trees. It has simplified ways for the community to easily identify with the issues and contribute to finding solutions.

The project strengthens community commitment to, and ownership of the public realm, even to the level of individual trees. A wide range of methods have been used to engage and inform, many of which are innovative, educational, fun, ongoing, and transferable to other community planning projects. The project makes a valuable contribution to innovation in community planning through the documented, readily accessible and interactive website.

This project is a terrific example of how community stewardship of an important and under-valued urban resource can engender support for the future planning of our large cities. Significant involvement by the community through different mediums and mechanisms provides an enhanced process to achieve greening of the city and precincts.
Kent Acott, through his series of articles in The West Australian, has promoted a greater awareness of the importance of transport planning issues for a growing Perth by comparing the city with cities it aspires to. This has led to increased and informed debate on options for the growth of Perth into the future.

The articles help the reader build upon their existing knowledge and to join in the conversation in a more informed way. This is likely to result in more positive and long-term engagement with the wider public on these important planning issues.

This project demonstrates the strengths of ongoing analytical journalism in raising awareness and understanding about complex urban challenges. It has provided a different approach to promoting planning, by using media to get the story out, providing a paper and radio interviews. Planning projects rarely make the media and the dialogue created provides an example of what planners can do to promote planning. Kent’s body of work on transport planning shows us that journalism can communicate a core planning message in an engaging and understandable way.
This is a significant place making infrastructure project for the Port City of Gladstone, which has in the past lacked well-placed public infrastructure. The City’s rich maritime heritage has been celebrated through the inclusion of numerous historical elements throughout the parkland including the permanent relocation of the HMAS Gladstone to a new wet dock.

The project also delivers innovative water sensitive urban design infrastructure, integrated pedestrian and cycle connectivity with the CBD, sheltered open space areas, large scale public artworks and an interactive water play zone. The people of Gladstone were consulted in stakeholder workshops, together with the Yacht Club, University, Council, the Maritime Society and the indigenous community.

Usage levels of the facility to date, being a waterfront extension of the main street, indicate that it has been well embraced by the local and regional community. This project seems to be a game changer for residents and visitors of Gladstone, creating a pre-eminent location on the waterfront which has the ability to be added to linearly in the future, acknowledging that this is Stage 1.

This engaged, innovative and creative partnership has resulted in a successful redevelopment of a degraded city/port site, taking into account physical and climatic challenges, and has generated a resurgence of community interaction and fun into a previously neglected site.

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This project has delivered a welcoming, highly permeable civic space that successfully integrates Council offices, a library, small scale retail, and community rooms, which are anchored by a large civic square. It shows a high level of urban design and architectural quality, with materials carefully selected to evoke visual interest and vibrancy. Clear and legible links to the nearby Dandenong railway station and the traditional town centre.

The project is the centrepiece of the broader “Revitalising Central Dandenong” initiative of Places Victoria, in partnership with the City of Greater Dandenong. It achieves its strategic vision and sets the benchmark for the design of civic spaces. What sets it apart in an award category crowded with quality entries is its tangible demonstration of the contribution of great urban design to place making.

Dandenong’s community. There is a diverse range of age and ethnic groups utilising the library facility and adjoining square, with library visitations up from 7,000 to 32,000, creating a community heart. The space promotes human contact, social activities, and community values as the square is complemented by a raised podium and video screen to accommodate a diverse range of events and activities aligned with the cultural richness of Dandenong's community.

COMMISSION
RUSH WRIGHT ASSOCIATES, LYONS ARCHITECTURE, MATERIAL THINKING
PROJECT
DANDEKONG CIVIC CENTRE
STATE
VIC

GREAT PLACE

CATEGORY SPONSOR

LOGAN CITY COUNCIL

AWARDED TO RECOGNISE A PLACE, STREET OR NEIGHBOURHOOD IN AUSTRALIA

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS.

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VISIT WWW.PLANNING.ORG.AU AND JOIN TODAY
AWARD TO
EMMA CLINTON
PIA (GRADUATE)
PROJECT
HOUSING ESSENTIALS - LOW TO MODERATE INCOME WORKER HOUSING IN SYDNEY’S EASTERN SUBURBS
STATE NSW

The plight of households experiencing financial stress in the housing market have been taken up by planners, especially the plight of so-called “key workers” such as teachers, nurses and police. However, there is a larger and less charismatic group of workers who are on low wages providing a very important range of services in cities.

In an original and interesting thesis, Emma Clinton created a new category called “essential workers” and used quantitative data and a series of interviews to position this group right at the centre of the housing debate. She concludes that an unexpected outcome of this research was the potential use of the “essential worker” term as a way of galvanising action in the area of affordable housing.

Emma’s thesis provides a major and robust research contribution to contemporary housing challenges. This is a highly under-researched area of an increasingly urgent issue in our cities. Housing Essentials is an outstanding and original piece of work that will make a significant contribution to the affordable housing debate in Sydney and elsewhere.
AWARD TO
LYNDALL BRYANT,
PIA (AFFILIATE),
QUEENSLAND
UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY
PROJECT
WHO REALLY
PAYS FOR URBAN
INFRASTRUCTURE?
THE IMPACT
OF DEVELOPER
INFRASTRUCTURE
CHARGES
ON HOUSING
AFFORDABILITY
IN BRISBANE,
AUSTRALIA
(DOCTORAL THESIS)
STATE
QLD

Lyndall Bryant’s doctoral thesis is of outstanding quality and is underpinned by a thorough methodology and a comprehensive literature review, including policy from all three levels of government, as well as professional and academic research from across Australia and international sources. This thesis, understood to be amongst the first academic research of its kind in Australia, helps to address a knowledge gap in the Australian context and demonstrates a firm understanding of infrastructure funding issues and the implications of policy decisions in this sphere. In particular, it provides an economic perspective of the end-user cost implications of policy decisions about infrastructure charges. The work encourages informed consideration of the important implications of infrastructure policy and funding issues. It makes an important contribution to the housing affordability debate and the methodology is potentially transferable beyond Brisbane to other parts of Queensland and Australia.

Lyndall’s thesis is likely to be the catalyst for ongoing research to inform government decision making in this important area of policy. Using multivariate regression to analyse the impact of developer contributions upon housing affordability, this work provides an incisive piece of research in relation to an issue that concerns us all.
AWARD NOMINATIONS

PLANNER OF THE YEAR
Sarah Hill MPA
Shannon McGuire MPA
Damien Kennedy MPA CPP
Karen Bright MPA

YOUNG PLANNER OF THE YEAR
Oobelia Tait MPA
Andrew Wheeler PIA (Affiliate)
Jacob Anson MPA
Laura Murphy PIA (Graduate)
Andrew Bishop MPA
Stewart Doran PIA (Graduate)

FROM PLAN TO PLACE
The Ponds
UrbanGrowth NSW & Cox Rayner
Gasworks/Nowest
Riverpark
Canberra HIF, Brisbane City Council, AWE, Cox Rayner Architects
Transforming the Public Realm
Brisbane City Council

Boulder Town Centre Strategy
City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

THE HARD WON VICTORY
Improving Taree’s town centre
Greater Taree City Council, Tidy up Taree & Night Bazaar

Year arguably THE Plan of Development
Debbie Richards
Frank Hilton Landfill Remediation Project
City of Onkaparinga

Amendment C190, 244 Edwards Road, Maidstone Gully Birchgrove Property
Curtis & Brown

Horizon Subaco D2 Property, Lavani Legal, Roberts Day & HASSELL

OUTSTANDING STUDENT PROJECT
Regional Innovation and the Integration of Canberra-Greenway
WLL Pearson

Housing Essentials - Low to moderate income worker housing in Sydney’s Eastern Suburbs
Emma Chlorin

Who really pays for urban infrastructure? The impact of developer infrastructure charges on housing affordability in Brisbane, Australia (Doctoral Thesis)
Lindall Young, Queensland University of Technology

Public Spaces for Everyone or Just the Majority?
Eve-Marie Davie, University of South Australia

Collaborative Practice in Victorian Local Government
Lauren Peck, Sally McPhee, Hamlet Neat, Jonathan Atkinson, Michael Churlow, Leonard Tysen, RMIT University

Evaluating Network Effects of Public Transport Access to Melbourne Airport: An Alternative Approach Based on SNAMUTS
Yinghuan Lui

BEST PLANNING IDEAS SMALL PROJECT
Urban Interventions Waverley Council
Waverley Council
Building our City – Light Rail Corridor
City of Good Coast, Griffith University

Launceston City Heart Project
CoDesign Studio with City of Launceston
Hospital Precinct Structure Plan
City of Greater Bendigo

WGV @ White Gum Valley
LandCorp, CoDA & Urban Design

BEST PLANNING IDEAS LARGE PROJECT
Kingston Arts Precinct
Stewart Architecture

SEPP 65 and the Apartment Design Guide
NSW Department of Planning & Environment

Sunshine Coast shaping our Future
Sunshine Coast Council and HASSELL

GREATER LAAUNCESTON PLAN
Renaissance Planning for the City of Launceston with Geotechnica, Niche Planning Studio and David Lock and Associates

Guidelines for trail planning, design and management
TIC Tourism

Dampier Peninsula Planning Strategy
Department of Planning, Western Australian Planning Commission and Landvision

IMPROVING PLANNING PROCESSES AND PRACTICES
Streets for Community - Places to be, Walk, Cycle and Drive
Tall Woolington

The NorBE Assessment Tool
WaterNSW

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNITY PLANNING
Strategy for an “Age-Friendly Lane Cove”
Lane Cove Council

Logan City Council’s Online Environmental Offset Estimator
Logan City Council, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Calus Spatial

The University of Tasmania Sustainable Transport Strategy 2010-2016
Dr Anna Lyth, Mr Corey Peterson (Project Leader), with Mr Nigel Hutchison, Dr Emma Praro, Mr Aaron Archer, Mr Kamal Singh, University of Tasmania

Casey Clyde Integrated Water Management
Metropolitan Planning Authority, South East Water, DEWRF, Melbourne Water

Addressing the Adverse Impacts of R-Code Variations
City of Rockingham

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNITY PLANNING
Strategy for an “Age-Friendly Lane Cove”
Lane Cove Council

Logan City Council’s Online Environmental Offset Estimator
Logan City Council, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Calus Spatial

Creating a City within a Forest
City of Melbourne

Forrestfield Skate Park and Youth Space
Skate Sculpture & Shire of Kalamunda

GREAT PLACE
NewAction precinct
Fender Katsalidis Architects, Molonglo Group, Oculis

Chatswood transport interchange + Metro Residential Towers
COW Architecture Pty Ltd & DESIGNINC

The Laksa Effect; Ingredients for a great Place
Fiona Ray MPA CPP

Gladstone Coal Exporters Maritime Precinct, East Shores
Urbis and Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited

Adelaide Oval
Adelaide Oval Stadium Management Authority

Dandenong Civic Centre
rush wright associates, Fiona Ray

KENT ACF

PLANNING EXCELLENCE 2016 NATIONAL AWARDS

AWARD NOMINATIONS
The Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) is the peak national body representing planning professionals. PIA was established in 1951 to serve planning professionals and promote planning as a profession. PIA boasts approximately 5,000 members and supports planners in all states and territories in Australia. PIA aims to support the Australian planning profession and community in the creation of liveable communities, vibrant economies, sustainable places, diverse cultural expression and social cohesion.

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