

The IECA Australasia Environmental Excellence Award for 2018

The 2018 IECA Australasia Environmental Excellence Awards announcement and presentation took place at the Annual IECA Conference dinner held at Chateau on the Park, Christchurch, New Zealand on 29 August 2018.

The Award is decided by an independent panel of judges and this year they found it very difficult to separate the two finalists, Transmission Gully Motorway Project and NorthConnex. To help with their decision the judges had to seek further information from independent referees about each project. A secret ballot was then conducted to determine the winner.

IECA Australasia is proud to announce the 2018 winner of the IECA Australasia Environmental Excellence Award is The Transmission Gully Motorway Project.

NorthConnex received a Highly Commended award in recognition of their contribution to the industry and the quality of their entry.

Conference delegates had the opportunity to hear about both projects during the first day of the conference.



Figure 1 – Representatives from the Transmission Gully Motorway Project with new IECA Australasia President Kyle Robson (bottom right) and outgoing President Andrew Macleod (bottom centre).

WINNER

The Transmission Gully Motorway Project

CPB HEB Joint Venture

Planned for and discussed for more than 70 years, the construction of the Transmission Gully Motorway is now finally underway. The project responds to the long-recognised need for an alternative route between Wellington and the rest of the North Island. Once completed, Transmission Gully Motorway will provide a route that is safer and more reliable for motorists, and better able to resist and recover from earthquakes and storms.

Built to demanding specifications, the design and build of this highly complex and challenging project is being undertaken by the CPB HEB Joint Venture, joining two significant construction companies – each with the wealth of knowledge and experience needed to deliver this iconic stretch of road.

A key component of the project is the diversion of the Horokiri and Te Puka streams. The Transmission Gully team has implemented an innovative and environmentally responsible method to manage the challenges associated with constructing a 4-lane motorway through the middle of a valley containing streams with high ecological value. Approximately 4.1km of stream needed to be temporarily diverted, while bulk earthworks are undertaken and new permanent diversions constructed to lift the streambed by up to 20m above its natural channel.

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Figure 2 – (L to R) New IECA Australasia President Kyle Robson, Sarah Wilson (Lend Lease Bouygues), Sarah Blagrove (Lend Lease Bouygues) and outgoing IECA Australasia President Andrew Macleod.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

NorthConnex

Lendlease Bouygues Construction Joint Venture

The \$3 billion NorthConnex project will deliver significant benefits to road users across Sydney, with the opening of the twin nine-kilometre tunnels expected in late 2019. NorthConnex is the longest road tunnel project in Australia, and will link the M1 Pacific Motorway at Wahroonga to the Hills M2 Motorway at West Pennant Hills. The tunnel will remove around 5,000 trucks daily from Pennant Hills Road, helping to improve safety, local air quality and reduce existing traffic noise. The project is being delivered by Lendlease Bouygues Joint Venture on behalf of the proponents Transurban and Roads and Maritime Services with the

tunnel to be operated and maintained by NorthConnex Company Pty Ltd (consisting of Transurban and the Westlink M7 shareholders).

The project presented several environmental challenges, particularly within the northern civil package of works at Wahroonga, where the realignment of a 395 metre stretch of a live creek (Cockle Creek) was required to facilitate site establishment and the construction of the M1 Motorway southbound tunnel dive structure. As a result, the project adopted innovative design and construction methodologies to deliver the required engineering scope in conjunction with best practice erosion and sediment control outcomes. The construction methodology took into consideration multiple stages of creek relocations, in order to enable earthworks and the construction of the tunnel dive structure footings and walls. This ensured an extremely high level of environmental protection, with all personnel working on the project understanding the importance of protecting this local waterway.

The judging panel and IECA Australasia would like to thank all entrants to this year's awards. Thank you for supporting IECA and for striving to raise the bar in our industry, and of course, congratulations to this year's winner!

Ends