

MEDIA STATEMENT

Wednesday 11 June 2014

PORT PIRIE COUNCIL WINS MAJOR AWARD

A Port Pirie Regional Council engineering project has won acclaim as the best of its type in the State.

A Council project to engage residents in its restructure of waste management services took out top prize in the 'Community Engagement in a Public Works Project' category of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) annual South Australian Excellence Awards.

Council undertook extensive community consultation and education in the roll out of its new waste strategy which included an anti-litter campaign involving local youth and a YouTube clip filmed by a local production team, which continues to air on local media.

Port Pirie Regional Council's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Andrew Johnson, said waste management affects everyone so it is essential for everyone to be educated, aware and responsive.

"Council had to close its landfill so we had to find waste management alternatives," Dr Johnson said.

"The benefit of community engagement is the smooth running and effectiveness of our new system. It was a real team effort by Council's engineers and residents, especially young people."

IPWEA SA President Andrew Craig said the annual IPWEA Excellence Awards recognise talent at the peak of the engineering industry.

"IPWEA encourages excellence in engineering and recognises the best engineers in South Australia, which, in this instance, are in Port Pirie," said Mr Craig.

IPWEA is the professional association for engineers who deliver public works, engineering services and contracts, such as roads, bridges, public buildings, flood management and waste management to communities throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Other winners of IPWEA SA Excellence Awards 2014 are:

- Asset Management Projects: Campbelltown City Council
- Excellence in Road Safety: City of Salisbury
- Public Works Professional: Rod Ellis, Principal Engineer of Tonkin Consulting & Program Manager of Regional Local Government
- Emerging Leader: Megan Bonehill of Mount Barker District Council & Simon Keith of Light Regional Council
- Design and/or Construction of a Public Works Project - Water: FMG Engineering & City of Marion
- Design and/or Construction of a Public Works Project – Civil: Peter Tan & Bill Zissopoulous Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure

MEDIA CONTACT - Andrew Craig, Tel: 08 8397 7378 or 0408 818 978