MEDIA STATEMENT

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2021 Awards for Excellence – Collaboration for Project Excellence

The OneConsult 2021 Awards for Excellence Collaboration for Project Excellence Award winners have been announced as SMEC Australia, McIlwain Civil Engineering, Department of Transport and Main Roads.

This year's Consult Australia 2021 Awards for Excellence Collaboration for Project Excellence Award winner has been announced as SMEC Australia, McIlwain Civil Engineering, Department of Transport and Main Roads for Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements – Event 20A – Binna Burra Road. This award recognises collaboration initiatives between project participants and the client, which contributed to project excellence.

Winner
SMEC Australia, McIlwain Civil Engineering, Department of Transport and Main Roads
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements – Event 20A – Binna Burra Road
SMEC and McIlwain Civil awarded prestigious Consult Australia Collaboration for Project Excellence Award for TMR's Binna Burra remediation project
Consult Australia has awarded the contractor and consultant responsible for the Binna Burra Road remediation its Collaboration for Project Excellence Award. Following a destructive bushfire in 2019, the Queensland Department of Transport (TMR) and Main Roads (TMR) commissioned McIlwain Civil to design and construct remediation measures along the bushfire affected road and regain safe access to Lamington National Park and Binna Burra Lodge. McIlwain Civil then procured designer SMEC to provide design input and construction support.

This contract arrangement was deemed the most suitable due to the severe damage caused to the roadway combined with the constrained project program. The scope of the project and the number of sites that required remediation was under assessment throughout the contract. At time of initial tender, two sites were identified as requiring remediation. At project completion the number of sites to be remediated had grown to 20.

To manage the concurrent assessment, approval, design, and construction of the identified sites, the project required close, ongoing collaboration with TMR, and its emergency works responders RoadTek. The staging, combined with tight project program, resulted in the construction of many sites being undertaken in parallel with the design, requiring real-time sharing of design information between design and construction teams.

Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) South Coast Regional Director Paul Noonan said collaboration was key to successful delivery. "We had regular contact with McIlwain Civil and designer SMEC through the design and delivery of these remediation works," Mr Noonan said. SMEC's Manager Geotechnics - QLD/NT Trudy Wallington said the award was unique as it recognised the importance of open and flexible collaboration on projects with a complex, evolving scope. "Flexibility was a crucial aspect of the Binna Burra project delivery," Ms Wallington said. "We had to mitigate the safety risks to allow us to deliver design and construction remediation measures within the incredibly unstable mountainous environment." Prior to this project SMEC and McIlwain Civil worked together on other Disaster Relief projects, and the existence of a prior working relationship ensured both parties were familiar with methods of working.

This provided a foundation that was built upon throughout the completion of the Binna Burra Road project. Design Lead Rick Martin said the close collaboration resulted in construction excellence and best practice to develop solutions that met the challenging environment and tight timeframe. "The remediation has ensured safe public access to the National Park and the heritage-listed Binna Burra Lodge, supporting local tourism and a major local business," Mr Martin said. Eligible reconstruction works are jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Consult Australia has also recognised Aurecon for their Square Kilometre Array (SKA) – Infrastructure Australia project and Tonkin for Greening the Desert both as Highly Commended 2021 Awards for Excellence in the category of Collaboration for Project Excellence.

Highly Commended
Aurecon
Square Kilometre Array (SKA) – Infrastructure Australia
The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) is a multinational science project to build the world's largest and most sensitive radio telescope. Experts from more than a dozen countries are working together on one of the most complex science projects ever conceived to design this next generation radio telescope that will expand our understanding of the universe and drive technological development worldwide.

Engineering, design and advisory company, Aurecon, in partnership with CSIRO, formed the Infrastructure Australia consortium to project manage and design the entire site infrastructure, power distribution, and the Central Supercomputing Building for the SKA site in Murchison Shire, Western Australia. Aurecon's

Infrastructure Australia Consortium Lead, Shandip Abeywickrema, said the team has faced many challenges, including collaborating with a vast network of experts across the globe to bring this world-leading project to life.

"The SKA design is a global effort by international engineering consortia representing hundreds of engineers and scientists," Abeywickrema said. "Aurecon's role, with our partner CSIRO, in designing and project managing the Australian SKA project, and interfacing with the global SKA team, has been immensely challenging and rewarding."

Teamwork was the key Aurecon and CSIRO have worked together for decades, and the current SKA infrastructure project continues Aurecon's previous successful delivery of world class infrastructure for the SKA precursor, the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP) telescope. Significant challenges are navigated with stakeholders that include government agencies, engineers, scientists, and project managers across the globe, delivering nine work packages in parallel.
A clear communication and interfacing strategy is enabling the successful delivery of each work package. Designing the Central Supercomputing Building The Central Supercomputing Building for the SKA telescope is a unique facility with the primary function of protecting the radio quiet environment at the remote site.

Aurecon, in partnership with CSIRO, developed the building design to include a fully welded, double shielded enclosure to prevent the signals from the vast array or electronic and electrical equipment contained inside the building from interfering with the sensitive receiving antennas outside. The building is designed to be prefabricated and brought to site in modules as an optimum logistics solution for the site's remote location. This method will keep site labour costs within budget and minimise the potential quality risks associated with remote building construction.

The design of the building was optimised and modelled in Building Information Modelling (BIM) software to give the client and stakeholders the ability to 'walkthrough' the building in a virtual environment, allowing testing and amendments to the building's components, useability, and layouts in real time. Infrastructure over a vast site area the covers a 40 km radius and includes roads and tracks, fibre and power distribution, communications, site monitoring, and buildings. Ground preparation for the antennas and the road designs will utilise construction techniques that ensure cleared areas are kept to a minimum, and existing tracks or previous routes will be retained as far as possible to minimise disturbance to the natural landscape.

Highly Commended
Tonkin
Greening the Desert

Greening the desert', a project that saw Tonkin, BHP and Roxby Council work together to deliver an innovative wastewater transfer solution, has received accolades at the OneConsult Awards for Excellence, being awarded Highly Commended in the category of Collaboration for Project Excellence.

Tonkin, BHP and Roxby Council collaborated to deliver a wastewater transfer initiative that has significant environmental, social, economic and cultural benefits for the arid community and the Australian water industry, with a focus on future sustainability of the region. The design, construction and operation of the permanent wastewater transfer system sees sewage from Olympic Dam South collected and treated at the current Olympic Dam Village Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The partially treated effluent is then pumped to the Roxby Downs Wastewater Treatment Plant where it undergoes final treatment. The water is then reused by Council for local greening and irrigation of the Roxby Downs Golf Course, leading to greater community wellbeing through supporting green and sustainable recreation for the community to enjoy in a harsh arid environment.

Tonkin's Carmen Wentrock, Senior Water Engineer on the project, said: "The innovation of this project began with Tonkin working for two organisations independently, and resulted in a corporate business and a local council collaborating to achieve something bigger than what could be achieved individually. Tonkin is proud to have collaborated with BHP, Roxby Council and a number of other stakeholders to deliver excellent project outcomes that will benefit the local community for many years to come."

Tonkin's creative thinking not only produced a suitable result for BHP, it also provided an innovative way of providing Council with a sustainable water supply. Tonkin's solution facilitated a collaboration between BHP and Council to deliver innovative water sustainability. Both organisations are in final stages of a long-term formal agreement that will see the ongoing transfer of wastewater and the continued benefits for years to come. Tonkin is currently assessing the feasibility of scheme expansion to other recreation areas within Roxby Downs.

This project doesn't just solve a short-term problem; it provides BHP and Council with the opportunity for continual collaboration that will create valuable economic benefits, significant environmental impact, enhanced liveability, and it delivers the region with a long term sustainable water outcome to a remote town in an arid climate.

Tonkin is a leading provider of engineering, environmental and related professional services to private and public organisations across Australia. Committed to serving local communities, we design intelligent solutions for the buildings, environmental, land development, maritime and riverine, transport, waste, and water sectors. With more than 150 employees in nine offices across the country, we work together with our clients to build exceptional outcomes that provide lasting community benefit.

Congratulations to our Award Winners SMEC Australia, McIlwain Civil Engineering, Department of Transport and Main Roads, and Highly Commended winners Aurecon and Tonkin.

Consult Australia is the industry association representing consulting businesses in design, advisory and engineering, an industry comprised of over 58,600 businesses across Australia. This includes some of Australia's top 500 companies and many small businesses (97%). Our members provide solutions for individual consumers through to major companies in the private sector and across all tiers of government. Our industry directly employs over 285,000 people in architectural, engineering, and technical services, and many more in advisory and business support. It is also a job creator for the Australian economy, the services we provide unlock many more jobs across the construction industry and the broader community.

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NOTES TO EDITOR

1. About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the industry association representing consulting businesses in design, advisory and engineering, an industry comprised of over 58,600 businesses across Australia. This includes some of Australia's top 500 companies and many small businesses (97%). Our members provide solutions for individual consumers through to major companies in the private sector and across all tiers of government. Our industry directly employs over 285,000 people in architectural, engineering and technical services and many more in advisory and business support. It is also a job creator for the Australian economy, the services we provide unlock many more jobs across the construction industry and the broader community.

2. About Nicola Grayson

Nicola Grayson is the Chief Executive of Consult Australia. Nicola is responsible for implementing the organisation's strategy, building ongoing external relationships, and for leading Consult Australia's advocacy and government relations agenda on behalf of members.

Nicola is a member of and former chair of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) Risk, Liability, and Quality Committee. In Australia she chairs the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council's Urban Resilience Task Group and sits on numerous government forums representing the Consult Australia membership. Nicola is the Convenor for Consult Australia's Champions of Change leadership group for gender diversity and inclusion, a member of the Champions of Change Coalition.

Nicola is a government relations specialist, and has represented industry associations in the United Kingdom, the European Union, and Australia. Nicola has worked across a range of sectors including general insurance, consumer finance, alcohol, and education, in addition to consulting engineering. She has an Honours Degree in Law from the United Kingdom and is a member of the Australia Institute of Company Directors.

3. For interview

For more information and to arrange an interview, please contact Nicola Grayson directly on +61499 878 839 or email nicola@consultaustralia.com.au.