

Planning Excellence

2009 NEW SOUTH WALES AWARDS



Welcome

The New South Wales Division of the Institute delivers the annual Awards for Excellence to recognize excellence, innovation and achievement in urban and regional planning in and by New South Wales planners. The awards also serve to raise the public profile of the profession by showcasing the wide range of planning projects.

We congratulate all the entrants in this year's awards and thank each of them for taking the time to share their work with us. The Awards are an annual event and we encourage you to think about your projects during the year and to consider making a submission in 2010.

2009 has seen the introduction of a new category recognising planning for healthy urban environments. This Award is to encourage and promote projects which demonstrate innovation and integration of urban and regional planning, healthy planning and liveable community outcomes. PIA NSW is proud to have the Heart Foundation as our sponsor and partner in this important initiative.

PIA acknowledges the support from all of the sponsors of our 2009 Awards; it is their generous support which makes it possible for us to promote good planning in NSW.

We take this opportunity to thank the 2009 judges. Adjudicating is never an easy task and we appreciate the support from the judges this year.

About PIA NSW

The Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) is the national body representing planning professionals. Formerly the Royal Australian Planning Institute, it was founded in 1951. The Institute now has over 4,500 members nationally, of whom 1300 are in New South Wales.

The Institute brings together professionals and organisations with a shared interest in 'the community, and the education, research and practices relating to the planned use of land, its associated systems, and of the natural and built environmental, social and economic impacts and implications of the use of land'.

The vision of PIA is to support the Australian planning profession and community in the creation of liveable communities, vibrant economies, sustainable places, diverse cultural expression and social cohesion.

The objectives of the Institute are to:

- Serve the public interest of urban and rural communities
- Promote the professional interests of members
- Establish and administer standards of competency and professionalism within planning
- Support planners' professional development, including general and technical knowledge
- Develop and disseminate planning-related knowledge
- Provide a forum for the exchange of views on planning-related issues
- Advance its shared core interest through all spheres of government, the private sector and academia.

The Institute in New South Wales has four branches, extending from the Queensland border to the South Coast and covering the Central West. There are three active special interest groups covering the NSW Local Government Planners Network, the Young Planners and the NSW Consulting Planners. All seven Chapters of the Institute are active in New South Wales. There are also strong affiliations with a number of other associations and stakeholder groups.

Planning Institute of Australia NSW Division

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Sponsors



Bronze Sponsor

Landcom

Landcom is the NSW Government's property developer. We create well designed and sustainable places for people to live, work in and enjoy. Our projects not only meet the Government's metropolitan growth plans and urban management objectives, they also need to be commercially viable. Sustainability lies at the heart of our business. It is manifested in everything we do: from the way we prepare land and design communities to the way we choose partners and construct our projects.

The success of any strategy for metropolitan development depends, to some degree, on the Government's ability to implement its critical components, particularly in areas where the private sector may be unable or unwilling to become involved.

As the Government's property developer, Landcom takes on this responsibility. However, we are not a conventional developer. Rather, we provide the link between the Government's social, environmental and economic objectives, its development requirements and the commercial objectives of the private property sector.



Category Sponsors

Conics

Conics is a leading development consultancy focused on urban growth and infrastructure. We provide strategic advice and technical services to achieve smarter, more sustainable growth solutions.

We help our clients, both public and private, meet the challenges of urban growth and infrastructure delivery through a unique combination of services: Planning, Design, Surveying, Economics + Advisory and Environment and Climate Change.

We have earned a reputation for leadership in development through our collaborative approach and commitment to innovative partnerships across government, industry and the community. We are committed to taking the pragmatic path to project outcomes which are good for the client, the community and the environment.

Conics is part of the RPS Group, an international consultancy with offices in the UK, Europe, North America, Australia and South East Asia.



Godden Mackay Logan

Heritage Consultants

Godden Mackay Logan is at the leading edge of heritage consulting in Australia. We work with the property and development industries, and local government, state and commonwealth agencies, organisations and private owners to assess heritage significance and impacts, give advice on heritage projects large and small, and help people manage heritage places.

We also specialise in archaeology, Aboriginal heritage and interpretation. Our work covers all sorts of sites from large developments to individual houses to high-profile places such as the Sydney Cricket Ground, Carlton and United Breweries in Sydney and Melbourne, the Prince Henry Site in Tasmania and Mawson's Hut in Antarctica.

Visit www.gml.com.au for more information.



Sponsors



Category Sponsors

The Heart Foundation

The Heart Foundation is Australia's leading heart health charity working to fight cardiovascular disease (heart, stroke and blood vessel disease).

The Heart Foundation has had an ongoing commitment to healthy urban planning over the last 12 years. In 2004 the Heart Foundation won a Planning Institute of Australia, Planning Excellence Award, for its Healthy By Design Guidelines. More recently the Heart Foundation, in collaboration with the Planning Institute of Australia and the Australian Local Government Association has developed Healthy Spaces and Places – a national guide to designing communities that encourage healthy living.

For practical guidance on healthy urban planning, go to www.heartfoundation.org.au/active_by_design



Helen Mulcahy Urban Planning

Helen Mulcahy Urban Planning is a small practice, committed to providing personalised service to its clients. We provide a range of services to both the public and private sectors, including:

- statutory planning
- environmental impact assessment
- strategic planning
- preparation of development and rezoning applications.

Recent Projects include:

- Esperance - Bundock Street, Randwick for Mirvac
- Prince Henry @ Little Bay for Stockland
- Riverwalk - Spurway Street, Ermington for Stockland
- DA assessments for Leichhardt Council;
- Wisteria Café redevelopment for Sydney Olympic Park Authority
- Various matters in the Land and Environment Court for Ashfield Council
- Various planning advice to the Centennial Park Moore Park Trust



GSA Planning

GSA Planning was established in Sydney in 1988 as an Urban and Traffic Planning Consultancy. Since that time, our service has been expanded to meet clients' needs and we now offer a "one-stop" consultancy for a wide range of expertise. Our appreciation of three dimensional forms, context and the need to consider the character of a locality is often of great assistance to architects and clients.

Our Company strives for professional excellence and client satisfaction and our continuing challenge is keeping pace with the ever-changing demand of the urban environment.

Visit our website at:
www.gsaplanning.com.au.



NSW Transport and Infrastructure

With a budget of over \$ 3.4 billion, NSW Transport and Infrastructure is charged with delivering safe and reliable transport services for the people of NSW, who make around two million rail, bus and ferry trips on an average weekday.

Following Premier Nathan Rees announcement of thirteen super departments in July 2009, NSW Transport and Infrastructure was created to be the lead agency responsible for the development, planning and coordination of Australia's largest transport network.

This streamlined transport structure delivers improved integrated transport planning and service delivery across metropolitan, rural and regional NSW.

With an eye towards the future, we develop long-term strategies aimed at guaranteeing that NSW has a transport system that keeps pace the state's growth.



Award Categories

Category Sponsors

Urbis

Urbis is a consulting firm offering a unique range of skills, expertise and knowledge in:

- urban planning
- urban design
- property economics
- heritage
- social planning and research

It is this powerful collaboration of skills and unrivalled knowledge of the built, economic and social environment that enables Urbis to assist our clients across a variety of complex projects. The projects range from major CBD projects through to greenfield developments.

This diversity of Urbis skills is illustrated by these recent projects:

Playing a lead role in the Bonnyrigg Living Communities Project

Assisting Uniting Care Ageing in reviewing the potential future use and redevelopment of existing facilities in Shellharbour and Westmead

Providing expert commentary on the state of the Australian retail sector



There were 13 Award categories in 2009, including one new category, recognising achievement in Planning for Healthy Urban Environments.

Environmental Planning or Conservation

Heritage Planning

Media – Public/ Professional

Planning for Healthy Urban Environments

Planning Scholarship, Research or Teaching
Not awarded in 2009

Rural and Regional Planning Achievement
Not awarded in 2009

Social and Community Based Planning

Student Project - Secondary or Tertiary

Transport Planning

Urban Design – Plans and Ideas
Urban Planning Achievement

Young Planner of the Year
Not awarded in 2009

President's Award – Overall Award Winner



President's Award 2009 Overall Award Winner

'Integrating Natural Resource Management into Local Government Operations - Planning Guidelines'

*NSW Local Government and Shires Associations
and Walsh Consulting*

This entry stands out for a number of reasons: the depth of research and thinking; its practicality as a planning tool for Councils; its clarity and ease of use; and finally its considerable potential (albeit yet to be fully realised) to advance planning practice in this area of integrated planning.

It not only addresses the integration of Natural Resource Management with other strategic and statutory planning processes, but also the integration of land use planning and management with the broader responsibilities of Councils required by the NSW Government for "Integrated Planning and Reporting". The emphasis on sound research and strategic planning at the local government level is also, coincidentally, one of the Planning Institute of Australia's current three NSW key policy focus areas.



Environmental Planning or Conservation

AWARD: 'Integrating Natural Resource Management into Local Government Operations - Planning Guidelines'

*NSW Local Government and Shires Associations
and Walsh Consulting*

Natural resource management cuts across all spheres of government, all disciplines within a local council and links deeply into the community and business sector. Sustainable NRM is critical to our social, economic and environmental wellbeing.

This Guideline seeks to assist local councils in their goals to achieve high levels of NRM performance in all stages of the environmental planning and assessment process. The guideline addresses both the statutory framework and conceptual challenges and has an entirely practical emphasis. For each stage of the planning process, and with a focus on NRM, the Guideline outlines guiding principles, common challenges, ground rules, examples and references for possible local use or adaptation.





Heritage Planning

COMMENDATION: Balmoral Baths and Jetty Rehabilitation Project.

Mosman Council

The U-shaped Balmoral Baths and Jetty are a much-loved and important part of the Balmoral Beach and Esplanade heritage and recreation precinct. The Baths are a local heritage item under the Mosman Local Environmental Plan 1998 and are one of the few remaining Harbour pools which retain their traditional layout. Originally built in 1899, weather events and harsh marine conditions have meant that most of the original elements have had to be replaced.

The extensive restoration work included replacing 24 timber piles, over 12 girders, more than 1100 sqm of decking and repainting the handrails. The understated quality of the design faithfully respects the original materials and technologies of marine structures from this period and the new works provide longevity, maintain aesthetic integrity and above all continue the tradition ensuring the baths and jetty are here to be enjoyed for many years to come.



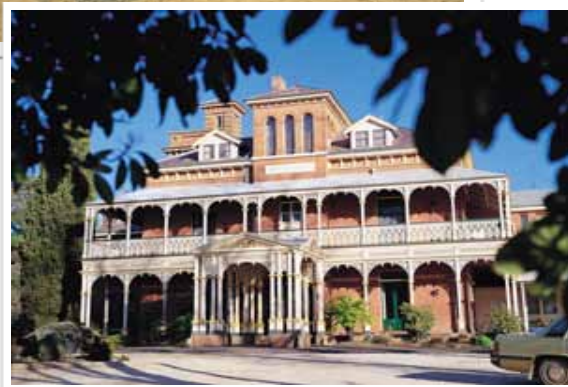
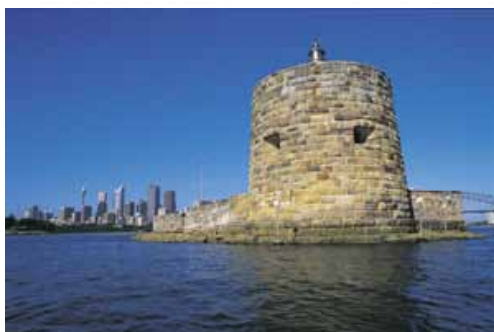
Media Public / Professional

AWARD: Mosman design awards 2009.

Mosman Council

The Mosman Design Awards is an event held once every two years by Council to celebrate outstanding contributions to the built environment and heritage conservation in Mosman. The Awards program, now presented for the third time, continues to improve, and grow in popularity. This is reflected by the high number of nominations and their high standard, as well as the increased community involvement.

An interactive purpose-built website was developed in-house. It utilises a logo and colour scheme created to brand the Awards as a distinctive and professional event. Planners are focussed on the achievements 'on the ground' of the architects who design high quality developments. The effective undertaking of the program is driven by a promotional plan being developed to ensure the objectives of the Awards are met and that meaningful evaluation measures its success.



Media Public / Professional

COMMENDATION: NSW Heritage Tourism Online.

NSW Department of Planning

The visually attractive and user-friendly Heritage Tourism website draws on over 500 items and places in NSW listed on the State Heritage Register. These items range from public places such as national parks and commercial businesses to tourist attractions and local council heritage walking tours.

The website raises the profile of heritage as vital to NSW unique sense of identity, history, place and character. The website delivers towards a consistent national approach to the identification and promotion of heritage tourism places; provides a further potential economic benefit to owners of State Heritage Register listed items and properties through increased visitation; and enhances cultural tourism opportunities for local communities in rural and regional NSW.



Planning for Healthy Urban Environments

AWARD: Healthy Urban Development Checklist.

NSW Health, Sydney South West Area Health Service and Elton Consulting

The effect of the built environment on health is becoming increasingly recognised. Given this, health services across NSW have been exploring ways to become more actively engaged in the urban planning and development process.

This project aims to assist health professionals to understand and comment on urban development policies, plans or proposals and to participate more actively (and proactively) in the planning and development system. The checklist is also intended to assist planning professionals to better understand health and raise planners' awareness of the potential impacts of planning decisions on the health of communities.



Planning for Healthy Urban Environments

COMMENDATION: Sustainability=health: integrated planning for healthy places and healthy people.

Landcom

For the past five years Landcom has been working hard to understand the links between place and wellbeing. A health-based approach to urban development is now being integrated across the organisation's business - in its overarching development policy, in the delivery of community programs, and in the practice of Landcom's work.

Landcom's approach demonstrates excellence, leadership and innovation because it sets a benchmark for the land development industry; it starts with the big picture policy and drills down to the face-to-face detail; it makes clear the imperatives for social sustainability - the social dimension is no longer the 'intangible' piece of the triple bottom line.



Planning for Healthy Urban Environments

COMMENDATION: Healthy Kogarah: fighting heart disease in Kogarah.

City of Kogarah Council

In April 2008 Kogarah Council resolved to instigate a series of initiatives aimed at contributing to a healthy community, with a specific focus on heart disease. The 'Fighting Heart Disease in Kogarah' Strategy was developed as an integrated strategy across Council as a means to reduce the behavioural risk factors associated with heart disease in the community.

The Strategy unites a number of existing Council programs with new initiatives that target heart health, including “Say no to trans-fats”; smoke free zones in public places; active ageing program; Fruit fix; pedometer 1,000 steps/ St George Challenge Cup.



Social and Community Based Planning

AWARD: Learn 2 – connecting people to ideas: the New Rouse Hill.

Lend Lease

Learn2 is an innovative learning hub located in the town centre of the New Rouse Hill, in the North West Region of Sydney. The vision of the New Rouse Hill partners was to create a benchmark for sustainable urban communities.

Central to this plan was to create a space that could be shared by innovative learning service providers and programs; a place that supported the needs of a growing community. Learn2 provides access to appropriate information and life-long learning. It aims to equip residents, businesses and visitors to the North Wes Region of Sydney with skills and opportunities to create a vibrant, connected and educated community.

Learn2 has delivered over 3,000 individual community learning outcomes and has supported small local businesses by providing a convenient and supported venue.





Social and Community Based Planning

AWARD: A Cultural Randwick City 2008-2018.

Randwick City Council

By preparing and adopting A Cultural Randwick City, Council has expressed its commitment to furthering the development of arts and cultural opportunities within the Randwick Local Government Area.

A Cultural Randwick City will provide the key platforms from which Council can support for local initiatives to stimulate the arts and culture within the City over the ten year period 2008-2018. Council is already delivering on the actions it has outlined within the Plan including establishing an Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel, development of a draft public art policy, opening the Prince Henry Community Centre as the City's key cultural facility, and implementing a new cultural grants program.



Social and Community Based Planning

COMMENDATION: One Minto.

Landcom

One Minto is a state-significant urban renewal project transforming the suburb of Minto. Undertaken by Landcom, Housing NSW and Campbelltown City Council, it is practically demonstrating the benefits of government, industry and local community working together, and will revitalise a problematic public housing estate to deliver a 120ha reconfigured community.

The Project has innovatively raised the mark for urban renewable projects, building on lessons learned from similar communities and comprehensive market research, including focus groups.

Setting the project apart is its integration of indistinguishable new public houses with a larger majority of affordable private housing. Over seven years and 13 development stages, One Minto will deliver around 1,150 quality public and private homes along with \$10 million of community facilities.



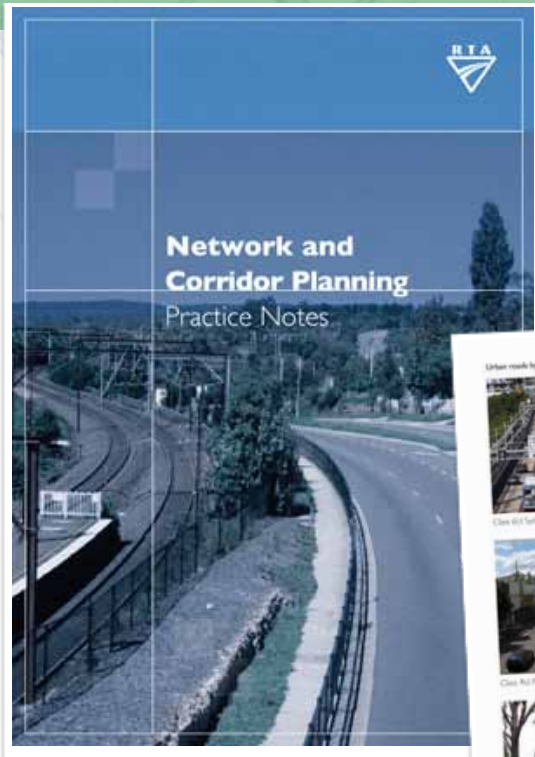
Student Project Secondary or Tertiary

AWARD: Mitchell Noble.

Gastronomic planning policy: planning for food in Sydney. Undergraduate thesis, Bachelor of Planning degree, University of New South Wales

This thesis focuses on the relationship between the urban environment and urban food and nutrition systems, examining the extent to which the NSW State Government and local councils are planning for food and healthy environments in the Sydney region. The Hawkesbury Harvest and Penrith Food Project were closely examined as the two existing comprehensive strategies which recognise the need to plan for food in Sydney.

The thesis identifies improvements within the NSW planning system that are required to better support healthy eating environments by ensuring the availability of fresh and nutritious food, which underpins the health and well-being of all Australians.



Transport Planning

AWARD: Network and Corridor Planning Practice Notes.

New South Wales Roads and Traffic Authority

Over the last few years the RTA has worked hard to revitalise and develop a culture of strategic planning to lead future directions for the State Road network. The Practice Notes have provided guidance to RTA's staff in preparing integrated network and corridor strategies to identify priority needs across NSW's State Road network.

There are many challenges that will need to be addressed by the RTA over the medium to long term. These include planning for growth in travel demand and the diversity of road user demands; addressing road safety issues and risks; maintaining the life of the road, bridge and tunnel assets and adapting to climate change scenarios.

The promulgation and use of the RTA's Network and Corridor Planning Practice Notes are key to strengthening planning in the RTA and delivering desired community outcomes.

Transport Planning

COMMENDATION: South West Sector Bus Servicing Plan.

AECOM

To facilitate the development of homes and jobs in the South West of Sydney, AECOM has created the South West Sector Bus Servicing Plan to provide public transport services for 300,000 residents who will live in the South West Growth Centre. The plan includes 500 kilometres of new bus routes serving an area of more than 17,000 hectares. This innovative project establishes a sustainable transport planning framework that gives the community a true public transport choice for their daily travel, including access to work, education, health care and community facilities.

Working with the NSW Department of Transport and Infrastructure, AECOM established the underlying principles that will guide the development of this region over the next 20 years.



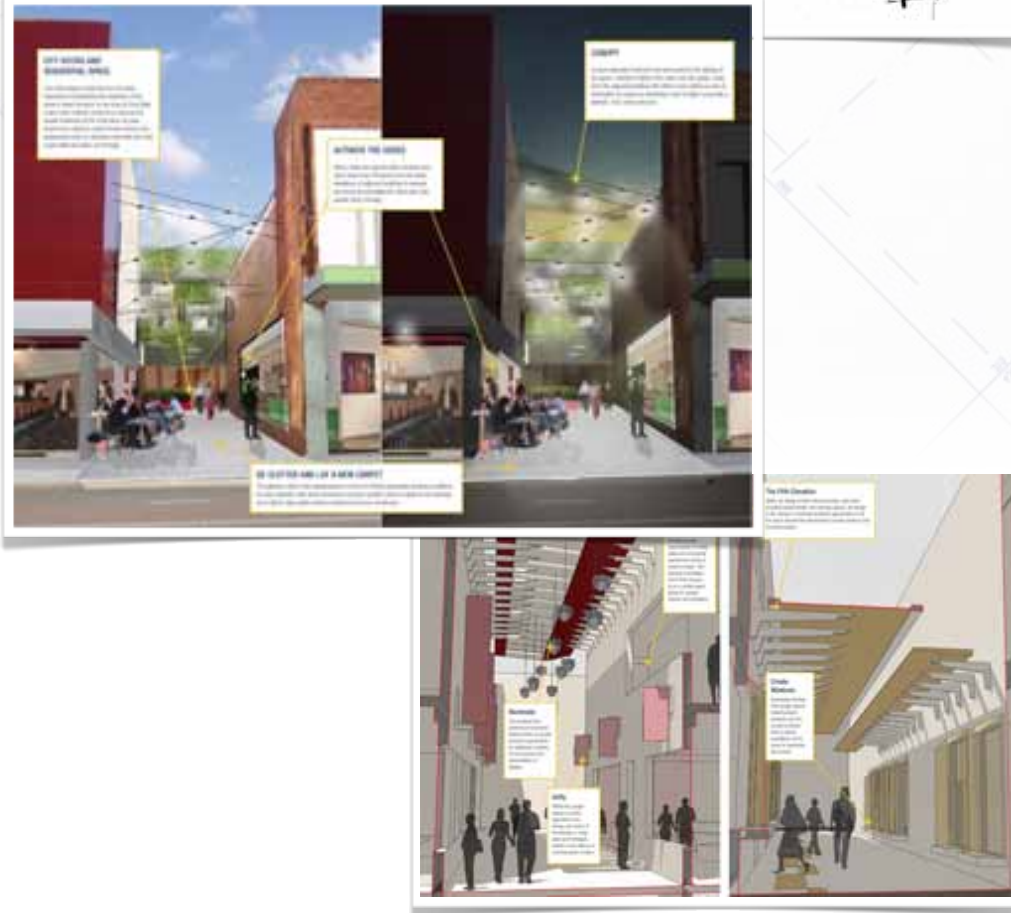
Urban Design Plans and Ideas

AWARD: Parramatta Small Spaces and Laneways Urban Design Principles and Catalyst Opportunities.

EDAW/ AECOM

Parramatta City Council have identified the established ad-hoc network of routes and small spaces that run between the larger urban blocks of the Parramatta city centre, as valuable assets. These routes and spaces reflect an important aspect of the city's physical evolution and have also become an increasingly favoured means of access and movement around the city centre.

In order to ensure that this part of the city's grain is not lost, Parramatta City Council appointed urban design consultants to develop guidelines to inform the establishment of a framework to deliver a comprehensive network of small spaces and laneways. The guidelines and principles are based on precedent studies and analysis of city context and its existing small spaces and laneways. Each of the spaces was assessed in the context of its existing and potential role in both character and function. Catalyst project sites were identified and specific guidelines and design opportunities for each provided to assist the council in commencing the initiative.



Urban Design Plans and Ideas

COMMENDATION: Macquarie Park Corridor.

Allen Jack + Cottier

Macquarie Park Corridor is a 340 hectare fast developing employment hub in Sydney's northwest. The attraction of high-tech multi-national conglomerates is transforming this former 1960's industrial zone into a nationally significant, green business park. With three recently opened rail stations, the Corridor has strengthened as a premier destination within Sydney's Global Arc.

The project team delivered a design-based, place-specific development control plan. A holistic design approach to place is reflected within the revised urban structure plan, including a new open space network, an extended street network, detailed special precincts around rail stations and a new public domain manual. All controls aim to shape the public realm and reinforce the vision for the Corridor.



Urban Planning Achievement

AWARD: Potts Hill Reservoir Lands.

Landcom

The Potts Hill Reservoir Lands is a unique infill site which offers the opportunity to undertake a significant urban renewal project within a 'middle ring' suburb. Approximately 40 hectares of land have been identified as surplus to the future operational needs of Sydney Water and the Concept Plan proposes up to 450 dwellings, 3 parks and 15 ha of employment lands.

Careful planning has ensured that the heritage and ecological significance of the site is respected. The heritage values of the site will be more widely celebrated as parts of the site are opened up to the public. Ecological outcomes for the site include rehabilitation and conservation of vegetation. Extensive consultation has been key to this project. Overall the project represents an example of effective and efficient urban planning.



Urban Planning Achievement

COMMENDATION: North Kellyville Precinct Plan.

NSW Department of Planning

This innovative precinct plan for the 706 hectare site was developed by the NSW Department of Planning and the Hills Shire Council. It includes a sustainable balance of new housing for around 15,000 residents, open spaces, safe and friendly town centres and protected bushland and waterways.

The precinct presented particular challenges including an extremely fragmented land ownership pattern, difficult topography and isolation from existing town centre and major roads.



Judging Panel

Ann Cameron, Consultant, Oaklon Pty Ltd (Chair)

Professor Robert Freestone, Faculty of the Built Environment, University of NSW

Dr Marco Amati, Graduate School of the Environment, Macquarie University

David Christy, Town Planning Team Leader, Albury City Council

Nigel McAndrew, Director, Development Planning Strategies

Stacey Brodbeck, Principal, Envisage

Specialist judges:

John Kurko, Senior Manager Active Living, Heart Foundation

David Wilson, Transport and City Planning Consultant, MWH T



2008 NSW Winners

Category: President's Award

Award: Urban Futures Group for Sovereign Hills Project Pty Ltd and Port Macquarie Hastings Council
For: Sovereign Hills, Port Macquarie.

Category: Environmental Planning or Conservation

Commendation: Randwick City Council
For: Design Ideas for Rejuvenating Residential Flat Buildings

Category: Heritage Planning

Award: Context Pty Ltd
For: Meeting Place Precinct (Botany Bay National Park, Kurnell) Conservation Management Plan

Category: Media –Public/Professional

Award: Clarendon Residential Group
For: Your Home Buyer's Guide

Commendation: SGS Economics and Planning
For: Urbecon – the SGS Newsletter

Category: Rural and Regional Planning Achievement

Award: Department of Water and Energy, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries)
For: Using Natural Resources Information in Rural Planning

Category: Social and Community Based Planning

Award: Landcom
For: Landcom Welcome Program

Commendation 1: Randwick City Council
For: Affordable Housing Strategy and Rental Housing Program

Commendation 2: Waverley Council
For: Waverley Affordable Housing Program

Category: Student Project

Award: Kate O'Donnell
For: In the Shadow of Power: Planning, Politics and the Kurnell Peninsula

Category: Transport Planning

Award: Sydney Ports Corporation
For: Port Freight Logistics Plan

Category: Planning Scholarship, Research or Teaching

Award: Metropolis Congress
For: 2008 Research Publications

Commendation: Robert Freestone and Bronwyn Hanna
For: Florence Taylor's Hats

Category: Urban Design Plans and Ideas

Award: Urban Futures Group for Sovereign Hills Project Pty Ltd and Port Macquarie Hastings Council
For: Sovereign Hills, Port Macquarie.

Commendation: HBO+EMTB Urban and Landscape Design
For: Pacific Highway Upgrade, Brunswick to Yelgen

Category: Urban Planning Achievement

Award 1: Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
For: Planned New Town – Port Macquarie

Award 2: City of Sydney Council
For: Sustainable Sydney 2030

Commendation 1: Willoughby City Council
For: Chatswood Civic Place

Commendation 2: City of Sydney Council
For: Late Night Trading Premises Development Control Plan 2007

Commendation 3: Landcom
For: The Landcom Guidelines

Category: Young Planner of the Year

Award: Adrian Bonanni
Urban Designer, Parramatta City Council