

Stormwater Industry Association of Queensland 2010 Awards for Excellence



Stormwater
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (QLD) INC.

Information for the Preparation of Awards Entries

The Stormwater Industry Association (SIA) of Queensland is conducting the 2010 Awards for Excellence to encourage and celebrate excellence in the innovation, development, completion and management of stormwater projects and the people involved.

The SIA Queensland Awards for Excellence will be presented on the evening of Thursday, 26th August, 2010 in Brisbane.

Entries Now Open

Entries for the 2010 Queensland Awards for Excellence are now invited.

Entries are not constrained by project or organisation size and will be judged on their merits.

Closing Date for Entries: **Friday, 30th July, 2010**

Why Should You Enter?

There are many benefits of winning a Stormwater Industry Association Award for Excellence, including:

- Recognition of the Project's excellence
- Showcasing and promoting the project, people and organisations involved
- Demonstrating to all stakeholders that your organisation is a leader in its field
- Recognising the personal achievements of your staff involved in the project
- Ongoing promotion including media coverage
- Having the Award proudly on display within your organisation
- Providing an example of excellence that can be advocated and promoted elsewhere
- Entry to the National Awards for Excellence.

SIA National Awards for Excellence

The SIA National Awards for Excellence will be held as part of STORMWATER 2010 – the National Conference of the Stormwater Industry Association, on the evening of Wednesday, 10th November at Dockside, Darling Harbour, New South Wales.

Under the new Awards for Excellence protocol adopted across Australia by the SIA, only the recipients of the State Awards for Excellence will be eligible for the National Excellence Awards. Therefore, entry of a project into a State Excellence Awards is a minimum prerequisite for entry into National Awards.

Allowance may be made for recipients of a State Excellence Award to refine their application for national entry based on the judges' comments and feedback on the State level application. For example, it may be recommended that a criteria response is amended to more clearly demonstrate or emphasise aspects of the project. This will allow the State Association to further support excellence in the local stormwater industry.

Award Categories

The award categories for the 2010 Awards for Excellence are:

- Excellence in Strategic or Master Planning
- Excellence in Infrastructure
- Excellence in Asset Management
- Excellence in Research, Innovation, Policy and Education.

1. Excellence in Strategic or Master Planning

This Award recognises excellence in strategic or master planning in development of integrated stormwater management.

Examples of projects that would be eligible for consideration in this category include, but are not limited to:

- Site or precinct master/ conceptual layout plans
- Regional or catchment strategies / plans, including infrastructure plans
- Integrated Water Management Plans.

Entries in this category will be judged against the criteria listed below. Applications must demonstrate how the project meets each criterion.

Criteria for Excellence in Strategic or Master Planning		Weight
1	The project is expected to result in significant benefits and achievement of project objectives when the recommended approaches, strategies and / or design are implemented.	30%
2	The project demonstrates excellence in the application of best planning practices for stormwater.	30%
3	The project has integrated stormwater management within broader considerations, such as land use planning, integrated water management, sustainability and liveability, to ensure multiple benefits and the best overall outcomes are achieved.	20%
4	The project demonstrates excellence in consideration of economic, environmental and social factors.	10%
5	The project involved meaningful collaboration with stakeholders	10%

Notes on criteria:

- Criteria 2: Best planning practices refers to the site assessment, planning and design component and is defined in *Australian Runoff Quality* as the best practical planning approach for achieving water resource management objectives in a situation (Engineers Australia, 2006).
- Criteria 4 and 5: These criteria have a low weighting as they are considered essential elements of any project of excellence in the stormwater field. Hence they are essential criteria that must be met by a project that wishes to be considered for an excellence award.
- Criteria 5: Stakeholders may include those from other disciplines, the community, other organisations and/ or within an organisation.

2. Excellence in Infrastructure

This Award recognises excellence in stormwater infrastructure projects that have been delivered and are now operational.

Examples of projects that would be eligible for consideration in this category include, but are not limited to:

- Flood protection / mitigation works
- A stormwater harvesting and/or managed aquifer recharge scheme
- A retrofit or restoration project, such as waterway rehabilitation
- A stormwater management system for a development, which may incorporate treatment measures such as constructed wetlands or bioretention systems
- Any combination of the above to achieve an integrated system.

Entries in this category will be judged against the criteria listed below. Applications must demonstrate how the project meets each criterion.

Criteria for Excellence in Infrastructure		Weight
1	The project will deliver significant benefits (including stormwater management outcomes that exceed minimum legislative requirements).	30%
2	The project demonstrates excellence in design.	25%
3	The project demonstrates excellence in construction.	25%
4	The project demonstrates excellence in consideration of economic, environmental and social factors.	10%
5	The project involved meaningful collaboration with stakeholders.	10%

Notes on criteria:

- Excellence in design involves application of best planning and management practices. This includes, but is not limited to, design that:
 - Involves innovate or resourceful use of existing practices to respond to and address site constraints
 - Considers and allows for maintenance requirements
 - Integrates stormwater management objectives with broader considerations, such as sustainability or liveability, to maximise benefits and achieve the best solution for the site.
 - Meets client expectations.
- Criteria 4 and 5: These criteria have a low weighting as they are considered essential elements of any project of excellence in the stormwater field. Hence they are essential

criteria that must be met by a project that wishes to be considered for an excellence award.

- Criteria 5: Stakeholders may include those from other disciplines, the community, other organisations and/ or within an organisation.

3. Excellence in Asset Management

This Award recognises excellence in the management of stormwater infrastructure in order to encourage and promote improved asset management planning and practices.

The Stormwater Industry Association considers asset management a vital component of the lifecycle of stormwater infrastructure. Effective asset management prolongs the life cycle of stormwater systems and helps ensure they meet required levels of service. While systems, processes and techniques to manage stormwater assets have advanced, significant improvements are still possible. This is particularly the case with stormwater infrastructure, such as swales, bioretention systems and wetlands, which involve a “green” infrastructure component.

Examples of projects that would be eligible for consideration in this category include, but are not limited to:

- Programs and/ or plans that set out approaches and strategies to manage stormwater assets
- Programs that undertake management of stormwater infrastructure, including maintenance or renewal programs
- Projects that improve the management of data relating to stormwater assets
- Projects that improve the process of handing over stormwater infrastructure from developers to council so that the infrastructure is in a functional state
- Projects that employ innovative methods or approaches to asset management.

Entries in this category will be judged against the criteria listed below. Applications must demonstrate how the project meets each criterion.

Criteria for Excellence in Asset Management		Weight
1	The project will provide significant benefits.	40%
2	The project promotes or employs processes or practices that prolong the life cycle of stormwater systems and ensure they meet required levels of service.	40%
3	The project demonstrates excellence in consideration of economic, environmental and social factors.	10%
4	The project involved meaningful collaboration with stakeholders.	10%

Notes on criteria:

- Criteria 1: Significant benefits may include, but not be limited to:
 - Improved governance and accountability
 - Enhanced service management and customer satisfaction
 - Improved financial efficiency

- More sustainable decisions (International Infrastructure Management Manual, 2006).
- Criteria 3 and 4: These criteria have a low weighting as they are considered essential elements of any project of excellence in the stormwater field. Hence they are essential criteria that must be met by a project that wishes to be considered for an excellence award.
- Criteria 4: Stakeholders may include those from other disciplines, the community, other organisations and/ or within an organisation.

4. Excellence in Research, Innovation, Policy or Education

This Award recognises excellence in research, innovation, policy / regulation, and educational programs / activities that facilitate or accelerate the uptake of stormwater management principles and practises that lead to the sustainable use and management of stormwater.

Examples of projects that would be eligible for consideration in this category include, but are not limited to:

- Capacity building projects
- Community focussed education programs
- Policy or regulation that accelerates the uptake of best practice
- Scientific research and validation
- New technologies (including products and software) used in stormwater management planning, design, construction or maintenance.

Entries in this category will be judged against the criteria listed below. Applications must demonstrate how the project meets each criterion.

Criteria for Excellence in Research, Innovation, Policy or Education		Weight
1	The project clearly identifies knowledge gaps and/or information needs and sets a relevant standard for attainment of improved stormwater management within a target community.	40%
2	The project demonstrates its ability to facilitate or accelerate the uptake of stormwater management principles and practises that lead to the sustainable use and management of stormwater.	40%
3	The project involved meaningful collaboration with stakeholders ¹	20%

Notes on criteria:

- Criteria 1: In response to this criteria, the entry may highlight (but not be limited to):
 - Demonstration of how the policy, education, research or innovation is being applied
 - How the project is tailored to the target audience (where applicable)
 - The knowledge or information gap that it addresses.
- Criteria 3: Stakeholders may include those from other disciplines, the community, other organisations and/ or within an organisation.

¹ Stakeholders may include those from other disciplines, the community, organisations and/ or within an organisation.

Judging

Each accepted entry will be assessed within the State that it is entered and by a panel of judges chosen by the committee of the State Association. Entries will be judged against the criteria for each Award category, which are included in this document.

To ensure that the Excellence Awards are relevant to the broadest range of projects across the country, the judging criteria have been designed to allow flexibility in describing project merit and to allow judges to compare projects that demonstrate excellence across the many diverse aspects of stormwater management.

Application Requirements

Entries must conform to the submission format, contain all the required information, meet the eligibility requirements and accept the Conditions of Entry.

Upon receipt, each entry will be checked to ensure that it conforms with the above. If so, the nominated contact will be notified that the entry has been accepted. If it does not, the nominated contact may be contacted to discuss the entry in greater detail.

Completed entry forms must be submitted electronically in Microsoft word format to:

Michelle Glasson
SIA Queensland Secretariat
Email: siagevents@stormwater.asn.au
Phone: 02 9744 5252

Entries must be received by 4pm on **Friday, 30th July**.

The entry fee is **\$350 for SIA Members and \$550 for Non Members**.

Submission Format

- All submissions must use the entry form and be provided in electronic format (either as Word Documents or PDFs) for forwarding to the judges.
- Material presented should only consist of information requested on the entry form and visualisation material relevant to meeting the judging criteria. Repetition of material in different forms may detract from the judged score.
- Material of an advertising nature giving general unsupported views or information should not be included, except as adding to visualisation. All images must be of quality suitable for reproduction.

- Only one electronic file of the award submission is to be provided. All documents and material submitted should be amalgamated into the entry form or pdf file. The exception is photographs, which should be provided in a jpeg format.

As per the entry form, the following information must be included in the application:

- Project title
- Organisation and contact (include the lead applicant and any collaborators)
- Contact details
- Category entered
- Geographic coverage/ location of project (if applicable)
- Project timeframe, including a statement confirming that the project has been finished after 2008
- Overview/ description of the project including objectives and outcomes (maximum 200 words) which is suitable for use in a media release
- Identification of stormwater benefits provided by the project, including water quality, stormwater reuse, ecosystem health, flooding and drainage control, public health and safety, placemaking/ amenity, and adaptation to climate change.
- Description of how the project meets/ demonstrates each of the judging criteria for the nominated category (max 500 words per criterion)
- Summary of why the project is an exemplar of excellence in the nominated category (max 500 words)
- Estimated project cost, including the cost of the stormwater component and total project cost (this is to allow the judges to compare the benefits relative to the costs across projects)
- Contact details of two referees who can be contacted by the judging panel if required
- At least three photos (jpg format)
- Logos (lead applicant and project collaborators) in jpeg or eps format, including permission to use and any conditions or guides to use
- Statement confirming the information provided is accurate and not misleading in anyway and that all relevant permissions from collaborations and clients have been obtained for the award application.

Eligibility Requirements

The following requirements must be met for a project to be accepted for award judging:

- The project was completed in the State where the nomination is entered, or at least the majority of the project. Alternatively, for the Excellence in Strategic Planning or Conceptual Design category, the project must be coordinated from that State. Projects that are located overseas but were substantially managed, planned and/or designed by practitioners in Australia are also eligible for entry.
- The project should have been completed after 2008.

Conditions of Entry

It is a condition of entry that entrants accept the following:

- Information provided by the entrant in relation to the Stormwater Excellence Awards (including photos) may be used by the Stormwater Industry Association for promotional/publicity purposes.
- At the discretion of the judging panel, the Association reserves the right to assess an entry in a different category than originally applied with the consent of the lead applicant.
- Based on the quality and number of submissions, the SIA reserves the right to present sub-category awards for specific areas.
- The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence concerning decisions will be entered into.
- The SIA reserves the right not to allocate an award for a particular category. For an excellence award to be allocated, a project must demonstrate a minimum standard that is considered by the judging panel to reflect excellence.
- The SIA reserves the right to allocate highly commended and merit awards in a category, in addition to an award of excellence.
- A project can be entered into multiple categories if the project meets the criteria for each category. Separate entries will need to be made for each category.

Should you have any questions regarding the SIA Queensland 2010 Awards for Excellence, please contact GEMS Event Management on 02 9744 5252.