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MEDIA RELEASE

Kiwi project wins big at the IPWEA Australasia Excellence Awards

A major NZ roading infrastructure analysis project has taken out the top prize at the 2022 Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) Excellence Awards on Wednesday night in Adelaide.

Infrastructure Decision Support (IDS), WSP and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's ***Strategic Maintenance Investment Justification Project*** won the '**IPWEA Australasia 2022 Excellence in Asset Management**' category and the prestigious '**IPWEA Australasia 2022 Public Works Medal for Project of the Year.**'

Dr Theuns Henning, CEO of IDS and Senior Lecturer at Auckland University said; *"To have the project recognised by such an outstanding award is just incredible! We were thrilled to have won the New Zealand award a few months ago, but to also win the same for Australasia and then the overall project award is very humbling. The project was a huge undertaking. So many within the industry were involved every step of the way, and it is something that everyone who was involved can be immensely proud of."*

Vanessa Browne, Waka Kotahi National Manager - Programme & Standards, said she is thrilled at the recognition of such an important project.

"We are absolutely delighted by this win. Asset management is a very specialised field, and recognition doesn't come any higher than this.

"The state highway network is New Zealand's largest asset, valued at more than \$50 billion, and responsibility for that asset is not something that Waka Kotahi takes lightly.

"Thanks to the work of this project, Waka Kotahi can have greater trust and confidence in our processes. What it helps us achieve is a more consistent approach, which ensures we're investing in the right places, and delivering the best transport outcomes for New Zealand.

"We congratulate our team on this success and the work they are doing on behalf and for the benefit of the New Zealand public."

Waka Kotahi engaged IDS in May 2019 to answer the "billion-dollar" question around how much investment is needed to maintain the roads and road surfaces within the New Zealand State Highway network over a three-year funding period.

This information was vital to support the 2021-2024 National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) and inform the long-term strategic 10-year and 30-year investment horizons.

The NLTP is a three-yearly investment package that ensures transport can be delivered nationally, regionally and on a local authority level.

Just three months ago, this project also won the **'2021 Excellence in Asset Management'** category at the **IPWEA New Zealand Asset Management Excellence Awards**.

IDS used the dTIMS (Deighton Total Infrastructure Management System) modelling that forecasts road condition, maintenance and renewal needs into the future to provide Waka Kotahi with assurance and confidence of a nationally consistent focus of investment.

This ensured the appropriate amounts of money were provided in the right locations whilst ensuring a functional, reliable state highway roading network that is well maintained and protected for generations to come.

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About the IDS, WSP and Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency Strategic Maintenance Investment Justification Project

The project began when Waka Kotahi engaged IDS to answer the “billion-dollar” question around the level of investment needed to maintain 24,000 lane.km of New Zealand State Highway Network over a three-year funding block.

This information was vital to support the 2021-2024 National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) and inform the long-term strategic 10-year and 30-year investment horizons.

The NLTP is a three-yearly investment package that ensures transport can be delivered nationally, regionally and on a local authority level. This necessitated the Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency Strategic Maintenance Investment Justification Project.

This project was unlike any other undertaken in New Zealand with the industry involved every step of the way.

The project ran from May 2019 to March 2021. Development of the analysis was conducted amidst a backdrop of COVID lockdowns, demanding deadlines, and a project scope that expanded just as the project teams had neared what they thought was the finish line.

The Core Project Team (or Steering & Delivery Group) included Samuel Grave, Roger Bailey, and Gordon Hart (Waka Kotahi), Theuns Henning, (IDS), Gemma Mathieson (IDS and WSP), and Elke Beca (WSP).

Under the IDS stewardship, some of the greatest technical minds in the industry, from over 14 New Zealand organisations and 23 Network Outcomes Contract (NOC) suppliers, collaborated to deliver not only the investment justification but also a suite of advanced technical developments in asset modelling and analysis.

The modelling work undertaken to support the 2021-2024 NLTP bid signalled a need to increase renewal quantities across the network and change the way the nationally secured investment amounts were distributed.

The project handed ownership back to the industry, allowing the NOC local/ operational teams to best apply the investment on their own patch (within the constraints of nationally secured investment). This implementation ensured that renewal investment decisions in these regions were always guided by these comprehensive and robust

modelling outcomes. The transparency of the development process and resulting investment strategy has been widely applauded and has strengthened relationships industrywide at all levels.

The resulting IP from this project has spearheaded technical developments in statistical modelling that would simply not have been possible by individuals or organisations working alone.

Key outcomes included Waka Kotahi's intent at the outset that the IP resulting from this project be made widely accessible to industry.

The project leaves an industry legacy of collaboration and development, building upon NZ's intellectual property, enhancing infrastructure decision making across the country and into the future.

It set the scene across the entire network for a wave of highway renewals over the next five years that will have a ground-breaking impact both economically and socially and the legacy from it will benefit all New Zealanders by way of enhanced renewals, cost efficiencies and increased road safety.

About IDS

IDS is a charitable organisation (owned by IPWEA NZ), and mandated to provide industry leadership in the development, advocacy, and implementation of evidence-based decision making for New Zealand infrastructure. IDS used a scientific model that forecasts road condition, maintenance and renewal needs into the future. Drawing on performance-modelling intellectual property, they provide solutions for asset owners to maintain, improve and protect their infrastructure networks.

Deighton dTIMS software (developed in Canada) was used throughout the project and is an asset management solution that encompasses strategic planning with maintenance operations and capital investment decision making. Through IDS, this software is available to all NZ asset owners regardless of their size.

For more information about IDS, please visit www.ids.org.nz.

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