

Case Earth Awards showcase industry commitment to environment

Winning entries in this year's South Australian Case Earth Awards ranged from a sparkling glass bridge to a modern weir, a new application for composting and a vast new landfill project, but the real winner was the environment.

THE WINNERS demonstrated an outstanding commitment to environmental preservation and enhancement, as well as exceptional construction techniques.

Adelaide's Inkerman Landfill project distinguished itself by winning awards in both the environmental excellence and construction excellence categories, a rare feat in a tough competition. Other winning projects were the Festival Bridge at Adelaide's Festival Centre, the excavation and processing of contaminated material from the Brownhill Creek and modernising of lock and weir systems along the Murray River.

Judges, led by local contractor Ted Paluszek, were impressed by the extraordinary commitment to the environment and construction excellence demonstrated by the local construction industry.

State winners were announced at a luncheon on Friday June 24, before an audience of civil contractors, at the Kooyonga Golf Club.

Category winners for environmental excellence were the excavation and composting of contaminated silt trap material from Brownhill Creek, and the Inkerman Landfill project. That project also won in the construction category, along with the Festival Bridge and Murray River lock and weir upgrade.

South Australian company Waste Management Pacific (WMP), developed the Inkerman Landfill, a 17 million cubic metre landfill which will provide a long term, environmentally safe repository for Adelaide's waste. The new landfill was desperately needed, with the facility at Wingfield closing at the end of 2004. WMP had the new landfill open for business on the first working day of 2005 and it incorporates the latest environment controls.

A consortium of contractors, Flinders Bioremediation Pty Ltd, Lucas Earthmovers Pty Ltd and the Jeffries Group, undertook the excavation of 3000m³ of contaminated material from two silt traps in Brownhill Creek. Due to the nature of the material, untreated it was suitable only for sending to landfill. The consortium instead found a way to treat the material and turn it into commercially saleable compost.

On the Murray River near Renmark, York Civil, a North Adelaide company, mechanised lock and weir systems that previously required divers to make dangerous manual alterations during times of flood. At the same time, they created fishways that make it possible for native fish to negotiate the weirs, to help combat declining native fish populations in the Murray.

Built Environs, based in Adelaide, constructed a technical showpiece, a 41m glass bridge at the Festival Centre in Adelaide. The bridge restores pedestrian access to the theatre precinct, which was recently remodelled to remove its gloomy concrete plaza. This outstanding construction feat was undertaken with careful planning to avoid noise

pollution, including scheduling the work around rehearsal and show times.



Pictured with the category one environmental excellence award for projects up to \$1m were Raya Giffard, Flinders Bioremediation, Andrew Thomas, PCWMB, Lyndon Parnell, PCWMB, Stephen Marshall, Jeffries Group, Paul Bowden, JG, Nick Matthews, Lucas Earthmovers, Richard Stewart, FB and Ben and David Lucas, LE.



Mike Quinn and Kevin Renfrey, Renfrey Plant Hire and Pat Gillman and Geoff Webster, Waste Management Pacific with the category three environmental and construction awards.



Michael Hyde, Andrew Lukasik and Brenton Akehurst from York Civil, accepted the category 2 construction excellence award.



Doug Williams, CCF, right, presented the awards, in this case to Kevin Renfrey, Renfrey Plant Hire, and Pat Gillman, Waste Management Pacific.



John Mourits and Alex Nadasan, Built Environs won for their work on the Festival Bridge in category one construction excellence.