Thank you to all SEQ members who attended the state conference in Brisbane last month in what was a very successful event.

Nine of the ten SEQ councils were represented including our hosts, Brisbane City Council, Gympie Regional Council, City of Gold Coast, Ipswich City Council, Logan City Council, Noosa Council, Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Moreton Bay Regional Council and Redland City Council.

The Geoff Wilmott Best Paper award was won by Kerry Doss of Brisbane City Council for his presentation on the ‘changing face of Brisbane’. The winner was chosen this year by votes cast by delegates utilising the conference App.

At the excellence awards ceremony and dinner, SEQ councils featured amongst the winners including ‘overall winner’ awarded to the Sunshine Coast Council for the Nambour Youth Activity Precinct and RSL War Memorial. Other SEQ winners include:

- Sunshine Coast Council for the Jack Morgan Park Upgrade Project (Stage One)
- Noosa Council and Tod Consulting and Marine and Civil Maintenance for ‘curing a cancer patient: the Munna Point Bridge’
- Logan Water Infrastructure Alliance for the Alfred Street pump station upgrade
- And a High Commendation was awarded to the Ipswich City Council and BMD Constructions (Urban) for the Redbank Plains Road.

Congratulations to all winners and nominees who will be featured in a new excellence awards commemorative book to be published in 2017. There were a record number of nominations this year (52) and we hope that councils will start thinking now about projects to nominate for the 2017 awards program which will be launched March 2017. Nominations are only open to members and there are no fees.

IPWEAQ is very appreciative of the efforts of John Derbshire FIPWEAQ who undertook a detailed review of Complete Streets and its predecessor, Queensland Streets and made a number of recommendations in his report which are to be progressed. A review committee comprising myself, Dwayne Honor (another IPWEAQ board member) and Ross Guppy (IPWEAQ Director, Technical Products) will develop John’s recommendations. To this end, we will shortly ask you in a survey to inform us regarding the extent of referencing of either document in your council’s planning and design regulations, how they are currently used and their limitations, if any. We will subsequently develop an instruction sheet for councils when ‘calling up’ Complete Streets (or Queensland Streets). If you would like to participate in the next phase of the review (CPD hours available), please do not hesitate to contact me at Murray.Erbs@redland.qld.gov.au.

The next opportunity for you to record CPD hours in SEQ is the 2017 SEQ Branch conference to be hosted by Logan City Council, 9-10 May 2017. A Call for Papers will be launched next year. In the meantime, Call for Papers have been launched for the next two IPWEAQ branch conferences in Yeppoon (23-25 March) and Dalby (2-3 March). Members are invited to attend any or all branch conferences as it is an excellent opportunity for you to network and learn more about projects happening in other regions.

My best wishes to you and your family for a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Murray Erbs
SEQ BRANCH PRESIDENT