Firstly, thank you all for voting at the recent election for the NQ Branch President. I am honoured to be your Branch President representing the interests of our members and the sector in North Queensland over the next two years.

The North Queensland Branch includes Townsville, Cairns, Mackay and the Whitsundays but additionally, our branch encompasses 12 Aboriginal councils and 18 rural and regional councils. It is important that we involve our members in those smaller and more isolated regions in our activities, and keep their challenges foremost in our minds.

It was great to see so many NQ Branch members in Brisbane for the 2019 IPWEAQ Annual Conference. It was another outstanding event with quality papers and keynote presentations, and of course, our memorable social events. The 2019 Excellence Awards was one of those events with almost 600 delegates in attendance.

Winners from NQ were:
- Winton Shire Council & Peak Services – Projects over $10 million for the Resurrection of the Waltzing Matilda Centre in Winton. This was a very popular winner on the night but was pipped at the post by the Noosa Council Boardwalk for Project of the Year.
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council – winner for Projects under $1 million for the Cardwell Water Quality Improvement Project.
- Department of Transport and Main Roads – Highly Commended, Projects $5 - $10 million for the precast bridge building at Burketown; Beames Brook Bridge Project. This award was proudly sponsored by Pragmatic Thinking
- Tracy Greig, Project Officer at Trinity Engineering and Consulting – Team Member of the Year

Congratulations to Tracy and the teams from Winton and Cassowary Coast for presenting some of the exceptional engineering projects delivered for our northern communities.

For those of you unable to attend #IPWEAQ19, the conference proceedings including the audio and video recordings, papers and PowerPoint Presentations are available for purchase at $600 plus GST (members) and $900 plus GST (non-members) for 22 hours of CPD. If you registered as a delegate for #IPWEAQ19, you can now access the recordings in the Knowledge Centre. It’s a great add-value that we are able to access the papers delivered in the three streams we couldn’t attend plus revisit those papers that were of particular importance or enjoyment.

I am looking forward to working with the NQ Branch committee over the next two years. Committee members include:
- Natasha Murray, Cairns Regional Council
- Hari Boppudi, Flinders Shire Council
- Danny Lynch, Townsville City Council
- Neil Allen, Endgame Projects
- Justin Fischer, Cassowary Coast Council
- Joshua Flanders (IPWEAQ Ambassador), Cairns Regional Council

The first IPWEAQ event for 2020 is the annual President’s Breakfast, Friday 7 February and once again this year, we want to include all of you. The Breakfast will be livestreamed and we encourage you to join with your colleagues to arrange your own breakfast 7am to 9am. Please contact Monica if you would like to be involved.
2019 has flown by. Thank you to all our members, Partners and sponsors for contributing to our ongoing growth and successes, and to the wider public works sector for being a part of our community. Best wishes to you and your family for a prosperous and healthy 2020 and please stay safe on our roads this Christmas.

Glenda Kirk
NQ Branch President