

Media Release

Industry celebrates NECA National Excellence Award winners 2019

The outstanding work of members of the National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) has been recognised at the industry's gala dinner in Brisbane on Thursday 21 November 2019.

NECA Excellence Awards celebrate the leaders of the electrotechnology industry with the winning projects demonstrating both the expertise and creativity of NECA member companies across a diverse range of categories.

NECA CEO Suresh Manickam acknowledged the calibre of projects this year highlighting the outstanding achievements of all entrants.

“As technologies have evolved so too has the electrical and communications industry. The sophistication of member projects we see year on year push the boundaries of what is possible in solar, battery storage and renewables as well as data communications, IoT and automation”.

“From Australia's single largest residential building, to the first vertical school in South Australia, to a new 2,000 acre world-class equestrian facility with energy efficiency at its core, to the largest data storage centre in the southern hemisphere, our Excellence Award winners this evening are delivering exceptional outcomes for their clients and the community at large,” he said.

The awards event brings together the winners of all the state and territory Excellence Awards, all with a chance to take out one of the industry's most prestigious awards.

The NECA Excellence Awards provide national recognition of a company's outstanding commitment, innovation and professionalism.

For more information on each of the award winners listed below visit the [NECA website](#).

WINNERS: NECA National Excellence Awards 2019

| Award Category | Company | Project |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Commercial Large | Perigon | Skytower Apartments |
| Commercial Medium | NSG BOFFA | Adelaide Botanic High School |
| Commercial Small | Calibre Electrical Contractors | Wickham Community Hub |
| Industrial Large | Barnwell Cambridge | AirTrunk SYD1 |
| Industrial Medium | Nilsen (SA) | Cobdogla Pump Station Electrical Upgrade |
| Industrial Small | C.J.Pearce | Asaleo Care PM3 HV switchgear upgrade |
| Voice/ Data Communications & Audio | Programmed Electrical Technologies | WSP Brisbane Headquarters |
| Lighting | Appselec Qld | W Hotel Brisbane |
| Energy Efficiency & Environment | Shepherd Electrical | Willinga Park Equestrian Centre - Stockyards Powerhouse |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| WH&S Management System (Company) | Fredon (ACT) | Fredon (ACT) |
| WH&S Management System (Project) | Programmed Electrical Technologies | WSP Brisbane Headquarters |
| Small Contracting Business | Brooklyn Trade Services | Small Contracting Excellence |
| Domestic Residence | Advanced Lifestyle Solutions | Camberwell Residence |

COMMENDATIONS: NECA National Excellence Awards 2019

| Award Category | Company | Project |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Commercial Large | Stowe Australia | Western Sydney Stadium |
| Commercial Medium | Prime Electrical & Data Services | Melbourne Conservatorium of Music |
| Commercial Medium | Stowe Australia | Borallon Training & Correctional Centre Stage 4 Refurbishment Project |
| Commercial Small | PM Electric | Jaguar Land Rover Mascot |
| Industrial Medium | Nilsen (Qld) | Ross River Solar Farm |
| Industrial Small | Fredon (WA) Electrical | RAAF Pearce Flightline Shelters |
| Energy Efficiency & Environment | Appselec Qld | W Hotel Brisbane |
| Small Contracting Business | ATS - Australian Technical Services | Standby Generator Student Boarding House |
| Domestic Residence | Buss and Grigg Electrical Services | King Street |

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Notes for editors

1. NECA is the peak industry body representing the interests of electrical and communications contractors Australia-wide.
2. Membership comprises approximately 5,400 electrical contractors, employing in excess of 60,000 employees Australia wide.
3. NECA provides employment and ongoing skills development for over 4,500 apprentices Australia wide.
4. A selection of high-resolution electrical contractor and apprentice insitu images compliant to Standard AS/NZS 4836:2011 are available free by visiting the [NECA image library](#).

Project Backgrounder

COMMERCIAL LARGE

Winner – Perigon (Qld)

Skytower Apartments

At 90 stories, Skytower is Australia's single largest residential building, with 1,138 apartments. Perigon's in house engineering team completed the design, with 950,000 hours worked over almost four years. A staged handover saw units sold and occupied while construction continued - with lift lobbies operational before Perigon had even installed the second substation on level 40.

Commendation - Stowe Australia (NSW)

Western Sydney Stadium

Stowe was engaged for the full design and construct of the electrical infrastructure for the new Western Sydney Stadium. Stowe had to manage a fluid design for the overall stadium, a technically challenging roof structure, inclement weather, and the presence of historically significant Aboriginal and Colonial Sydney artefacts that all had to be carefully managed.

COMMERCIAL MEDIUM

Winner - NSG BOFFA (SA)

Adelaide Botanic High School

The \$100 million Adelaide Botanic High School in the CBD, is the first vertical school designed in South Australia. At the heart of the school is a light-filled atrium connecting the two buildings. NSG BOFFA completed the full range of electrical services, including power, lighting and control, communications, solar, and security.

The specialist LED lighting inside and outdoors with automated control helps enhances the building's visual appeal. By using 3D Revit modelling and Trimble, NSG were able to collaborate closely with their client and the design team, to solve the complex programming, space and time challenges posed by the project.

Commendation - Prime Electrical & Data Services (Vic)

Melbourne Conservatorium of Music

The MCM is a unique, world class building of the University of Melbourne. Numerous architectural features required a complex complimentary lighting design to maintain the integrity of the building's design and purpose. Prime completed the full electrical scope including power; specialised and general lighting; solar; communications and security.

All studios and rehearsal spaces can contract into smaller spaces by using the lighting control systems – with bespoke lighting and power elements made exclusively for the project.

Commendation - Stowe Australia (Qld)

Borallon Training & Correctional Centre Stage 4 Refurbishment Project

The Borallon Training & Correctional Centre was decommissioned in early 2012, before re-opening in 2016. Stowe's original scope included the replacement of the LV distribution to two blocks, but expanded to include a new Main Switchboard room, new MSB with an additional 850kVA generator, and the replacement of all LV electrical distribution around the operating facility.

COMMERCIAL SMALL

Winner - Calibre Electrical Contractors (WA)

Wickham Community Hub

The Wickham Community Hub project delivered a modern, energy efficient and sustainable community facility. The largest project completed by Calibre to date, the scope of electrical works included the solar PV system, power, light, security and data. The 20-kilowatt solar system supplies more than 60% of the building's general power and lighting needs, while delivering significant cost savings and reductions in greenhouse emissions.

Commendation - PM Electric (NSW)

Jaguar Land Rover Mascot

The Jaguar Landover Training Facility for electronic vehicles required innovative thinking to solve the huge strain the large charging facility put on the existing building's electrical infrastructure. PME used a PLC system that means the chargers can only use spare electrical capacity available in the building - eliminating the need for a significant supply upgrade.

VOICE/ DATA COMMUNICATIONS & AUDIO

Winner - Programmed Electrical Technologies

WSP Brisbane Headquarters

The fitout of office space for WSP, meant working for not only a client, but also the engineers who designed the project. This complex communications fitout included a main and three field communications rooms, 1,000 data points and 100 av outlets. Twenty eight different areas have audio visual installations, including a virtual reality space, while a large digital signage network runs across all the levels.

LIGHTING

Winner - Appselec (Qld)

W Hotel Brisbane

Hundreds of bespoke Australian and European light fittings, along with 20 kilometres of LED strip lighting, combine to create a stunning aesthetic throughout the W hotel - while the programmable facade lighting installed by Appselec, brings the exterior of the building to life.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & ENVIRONMENT

Winner - Shepherd Electrical (ACT)

Willinga Park Equestrian Centre - Stockyards Powerhouse

Willinga Park is a new 2,000 acre, world-class equestrian facility on the south coast of New South Wales. During major equestrian events, electrical demand increases 10-20 times, outside the capacity of the available mains connection. To counter this, Shepherd Electrical designed, constructed and commissioned one of Australia's largest private micro-grids.

A 500-kilowatt solar system and a 2.1 kWh Tesla battery storage system, along with 4.3 MVA diesel generators spread across 3 engines, provide the alternative power supply. The batteries are charged in the morning, before the PV switches and exports to the grid, allowing the facility to run cost neutral with the energy retailer.

Commendation Appselec (Qld)

W Hotel Brisbane

Located in Brisbane's CBD, the W Hotel is a 36 storey, 5 Star luxury hotel featuring 305 rooms. The Energy Metering Management System installed by Appselec pulls together information from electrical, mechanical, water and fluid meters, and delivers them to a dashboard to allow real time reports to be generated for the building manager.

INDUSTRIAL LARGE

Winner - Barnwell Cambridge (NSW)

AirTrunk SYD1

Barnwell Cambridge completed the design and construct for the supply and installation of the high voltage and low voltage services to the largest data storage centre in the southern hemisphere. Completed in 18 months, 40 2000kva HV transformers, 40 1200kva UPS Systems and 40 2,000kva Generators were installed, along with associated cabling and electrical infrastructure.

INDUSTRIAL MEDIUM

Winner - Nilsen (SA)

Cobdogla Pump Station Electrical Upgrade

The Cobdogla Pump Station contains three 576 kilowatt pumps and three 376 kilowatt pumps. These supply much needed water to irrigators in the Loveday area. The pump station required a complete upgrade, including replacing the entire electrical system. Nilsen were engaged as the prime contractor, managing all aspects of the project delivery.

The scope included high voltage and low voltage works, MCCs, civil works for the electrical substation, mechanical, building and structural works including large cable support systems and SCADA control. A carefully managed, staged approach was required to ensure the pump station was operational at all times during the works.

Commendation - Nilsen (Qld)

Ross River Solar Farm

The 200-hectare Ross River Solar Farm produces 300,000 Megawatts per annum, enough to power 54,000 homes. Nilsen installed nearly half a million solar panels, over 200 kilometres of cable, and 32 inverter stations. Nilsen also designed and manufactured an aluminium IPC Connector Jig to ensure a perfect connection across the 4,500 IPC connectors.

INDUSTRIAL SMALL

Winner - C.J. Pearce (Vic)

Asaleo Care PM3 HV switchgear upgrade

CJ Pearce were recommended by ABB to carry out this High Voltage refurbishment, replacing aging 3.3 kilo volt high voltage switch gear that had reached its end of life. The project included HV switchgear and transformers; HV Cables and associated controls; and a complex eight-day installation and commissioning shutdown.

CJ Pearce overcame many difficulties - lifting and manoeuvring heavy equipment into position; working in hot conditions in the vicinity of old HV cabling; and dark underground work areas.

Commendation Fredon Electrical (WA)

RAAF Pearce Flightline Shelters

Connecting 21 pre-constructed modules to an existing flight line shelter with no disruption to air services at an operational air base was a highly technical challenge for Fredon WA. The electrical scope included the installation of lighting, power, lighting control, communications and BMS to the large military aircraft shelters. Fredon replicated its systems across all twenty one modules to meet the very tight construction schedule.

WH&S MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (COMPANY)

Winner - Fredon (ACT)

Fredon (ACT)

Fredon ACT has engaged a local safety manager who visits worksites and speaks to workers on how they can achieve their tasks safely. Safety walks are conducted daily to influence local senior leadership and encourage frontline employees to raise risk concerns, report issues, and address them at a local level.

Risks are recorded via 'FredonSafe', and near miss reporting systems, ensuring formal records are maintained while a national safety innovation competition looked for ways to address high risk activities, with the winning entry forming the basis of the national roll out of a program to reduce cut hands incidents.

WH&S MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (PROJECT)

Winner - Programmed Electrical Technologies (QLD) *WSP Brisbane Headquarters*

Programmed's scope included the electrical, lighting, communications, security and AV across 4 levels. Programmed's Safety culture was recognised by Project Managers' Lend Lease on the WSP fitout, with 2 PET staff members receiving safety awards for their dedication in conducting and encouraging safe work practises throughout the project.

SMALL CONTRACTING BUSINESS

Winner - Brooklyn Trade Services (NSW)

Small Contracting Excellence

After many years of working in the residential and small commercial solar sector, Brooklyn Trade Services have recently focussed their attention on the larger commercial solar sector. For this project, 978 360watt solar panels and 3 ABB 100 kilowatt 3-Phase solar inverters were installed as part of a 353-kilowatt solar PV system.

Commendation - Australian Technical Services (Vic) *Standby Generator Student Boarding House*

Wanting a standby power solution for a school boarding house, ATS were briefed by their client to investigate and recommend a solution. ATS conducted a site power analysis and made recommendations on the generator selection and its location before installing the 135KVA Standby Generator and replacing the boarding houses' main switchboard.

During the course of the project ATS, encountered access difficulties which required extra training for some staff to be licenced to work at heights.

DOMESTIC

Winner - Advanced Lifestyle Solutions (Vic)

Camberwell Residence

This impressive 3 level family home features a sophisticated electrical installation and home automation system. Advanced Lifestyle Solutions collaborated with the clients to ensure their requirements & the systems chosen integrated seamlessly, and were in keeping with the high-end finishes specified by the architects and used extensively throughout the project.

A Solar PV system with inverters & battery helps reduce carbon emissions, while a web-based interface allows the home owner to monitor energy yields.

Commendation - Buss & Grigg Electrical Services (SA)

King Street

The extensive electrical works for this new home were designed and implemented by Buss and Grigg Electrical in conjunction with the client. A major achievement was integrating all the systems - including electrical, security, sound, access control, video and audio distribution, and data successfully through the automation platform.

A large solar system was installed on the 1200sqm home, with kill switches and movement sensors installed to reduce energy usage. The home and its automation system - which can be operated via touchpads or a smart device - has been recognised by both the HIA and Creston in their awards.