

## Nine Australia projects shortlisted in IDC's Asia Pacific Smart Cities Awards

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Sydney, Australia 23 March 2020 – IDC Asia Pacific today announced that nine Australian projects have been shortlisted as finalists in the 2020 IDC Asia Pacific Smart Cities Awards. The annual awards highlight and acknowledge outstanding smart city initiatives in the Asia Pacific region and this year reached new heights receiving over 215 smart city initiative entries from the public sector and technology suppliers from across the region. The Awards are now in the public voting phase, the public can vote for the deserving finalists at [www.idc.com/ap/smartcities](http://www.idc.com/ap/smartcities) and go in the draw to win the latest Samsung Galaxy S20+ after the announcement of the Asia/Pacific winners in May 2020.

The City of Palmerston Council, City of Perth Council, Randwick City Council, City of Darwin, Cairns Regional Council, Geoscience Australia, and Byron Shire Council have been shortlisted as finalists in eight of the 14 award categories.

- The City of Palmerston project “The Place for People” with the purpose of improved livability in the City of Palmerston, in the Civic Engagement category,
- City of Perth Council are also a finalist in the Engagement category for the Perth Smart Cities Collaboration project,
- Randwick City Council’s Coogee Smart New Technologies at the Beach is a finalist under Smart Water,
- Also, in the Smart Water category is Cairns Regional Council for their Reducing Urban Impacts on the Great Barrier Reef project,
- Logan City Council’s Flooded Roads Smart Warning System (FRSWS) is a finalist in the Public Safety - Disaster Response / Emergency Management category,
- City of Darwin’s Switching on Darwin project in the Public Safety - Smart Policing category,

- Geoscience Australia's Energy Data for Smart Decision Making is a finalist in the Sustainable Infrastructure category,
- Sydney Metro and Plenary Group are a finalist in the Transportation - Connected & Autonomous Vehicles, Public Transit, Ride-Hailing/Ride-Sharing category for Sydney's automated metro system,
- Byron Shire Council's Smart Strategic Planning is a finalist in the Urban Planning and Land Use category.

Louise Francis, Research Director, IDC ANZ, says given the nature of the competition that Australian projects are up against across the Asia Pacific region, the results are especially impressive.

"For Australia to have nine projects that stand out on the regional stage is a noteworthy achievement. Australia has consistently excelled in the six years that these awards have been running."

#### Project Outlines

The City of Darwin created the project Switching on Darwin in association with a local service provider. Considered as a record project for Australian smart cities deployment with the highest budget allocation, it involves several technologies to enhance visitor experience, public safety, city and community planning, innovation and economic development, open data for management services and environmental information. To increase the safety in public spaces during the evening, smart LED streetlights have been

deployed across the city. This has enabled energy consumption reductions. In addition, 138 CCTV cameras have been deployed in the CBD to monitor and reduce anti-social behavior while increasing insights for emergency services. Other technologies include Wi-Fi, sensors to monitor infrastructure development and mitigate heat and other risks, information that is share in an open data portal; open data platform with analytics, etc.

With the purpose of improved livability in the City of Palmerston and a funding of over A\$2 million, the project "The Place for People" addresses many urban challenges that include, but are not limited, Public Safety through CCTV, sensors and smart lighting to help reduce crime; Connectivity through the improvement of public services and green spaces; Civil Engagement through open data, transparency and accountability. In partnership with Northern Territory Police, Fire & Emergency Services, Charles Darwin University and other collaborators, the project deploys different technologies around the city to meet its objectives including CCTV and video analytics; smart lighting at hot-spots for crimes; data analytics for operational waste management; smart bins and monitors to support this operation; open data to enhance transparency and accountability

through a portal and smart phone app that also support civic engagement.

The Perth Smart Cities Collaboration project combines several small projects that represent collaboration of the city and its partners through a Collaboration Market Place platform, which aims to enable the exchange of ideas and data among citizens and interest groups in order to evolve and scale technologies through a range of solutions, with the final goal of improving livability, sustainability and workability in the city of Perth. This set of small projects included smart irrigation (e.g. 107 smart irrigation devices support water, energy savings and operational efficiencies); video analytics through CCTV camera analytics to support decisions; a smart lighting trial; a sustainability dashboard with solutions and technologies that include an Open Data Portal, Public LoRa WAN and Citizen Science, which promotes the participation of schools and universities.

The Coogee Smart New Technologies at the Beach project applies smart technologies to help improve visitor experience at Coogee Beach. From smart parking, CCTV coverage, environmental conditions monitoring and deployment of free public high-speed Wi-Fi ,

the project supports visitation and economic development by helping resolve traffic congestions, waste management, servicing of facilities and safety of people in the water, visitor guidance through information about aquatic safety measures and supported by CCTV surveillance of the water from different angles at the beach and sensors that monitor environmental conditions directly connected to the NSW Police Force.

The Flooded Roads Smart Warning System (FRSWS) project uses smart technology to improve road safety during flood episodes, through proactive and reactive mechanisms. The aim of the project is to minimize the risk of drivers going through flooded roads because of a lack of knowledge on road conditions. To do so, the project utilizes smart signs to warn drivers, that are activated only in flood conditions and they will allow real-time mapping and generation of information for different agencies and the community. The data collected from the activation of these signs will also be integrated into open data. The project intends to deliver smart warning signs at 20 of 200 sites across Logan City.

The Reducing Urban Impacts on the Great Barrier Reef project involved the installation of a connected network of

environmental sensors in urban waterways to collect real-time water quality data and identification of high nutrient, sediment and chemical loads in water. It intends to collect and provide information to enable Cairns Regional Council to monitor the water quality discharge from the urban areas that goes into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. This will facilitate informed management and with real-time information will provide Council with the capacity to respond to potential incidents. The sensor network will collect ongoing information on the loads of nitrogen and suspended solids that enter the Great Barrier Reef and the community will have access to this data, engaging schools and students with environmental education.

The Energy Data for Smart Decision Making project consists of the development of an open modelling platform that uses spatial data and data on solar exposure, energy generation and consumption to help end users calculate the solar power potential of areas of interest. Users are then enabled with information to make informed decisions on investments in solar power generation. The project integrates an interactive map of Australia that uses solar potential and energy time-series data, along with transparent open-source models that analyse

potential solar energy in specific areas. This information support councils and end users in making decisions about investment in solar panels and precinct scales, and allows councils to design policies and incentives with statistical analysis of energy technologies.

The automation of Sydney's metro constitutes 22 fully automated six-carriage metro trains and 8 new railway stations that cover underground and elevated cut-in stations. The project also included the upgrading of 5 stations in New South Wales, 23 kilometres of new track, the conversion of 13 kilometres of existing tracks, upgrades to the facilities for maintenance and operation centres, service facilities and a new power supply for metro operations between Willoughby and Chatswood. The automated system known as 'turn-up-and-go' is fully automated and delivers services every four minutes in each direction during peak hours and every 10 minutes otherwise.

Byron Shire Council has developed The Smart Strategic Planning project, a 3D mapping tool with virtual reality technologies to engage communities in complex urban planning. The benefits of this project are the ability to visualise planned decisions so there is a greater support in better informed management for development decisions. It

also supports urban growth and regional and rural informed settings.

- Ends -

Figure 1



The graphic features the IDC logo (ANALYZE THE FUTURE) and the IDC Smart City Asia Pacific Awards 2020 logo. The main text reads "PUBLIC VOTING IS NOW OPEN!" in large blue letters. Below this, it says "Help IDC in deciding this year's Best Smart City Projects in Asia/Pacific and stand a chance to win a Samsung Galaxy S20+." At the bottom, it says "Visit [www.idc.com/ap/smartcities](http://www.idc.com/ap/smartcities) to vote". The background is a stylized cityscape with a person's silhouette holding a smartphone, overlaid with digital data lines and icons.

Make your vote count and stand a chance to win a Samsung Galaxy S20+ drawn after the winners are announced in May.

#### About the Smart City Asia Pacific Awards

All finalists were selected using IDC's Smart City Development Index framework, a rigorous six-phase benchmarking process that involves input from various stakeholders, including the public. Public/citizen voting is the second phase of this framework and constitutes 25% in the judging criteria to determine the Best of the Best in 14 Smart City functional eService categories.

To learn more about IDC's Smart City research and advisory capabilities, please visit IDC Government Insights: Worldwide Smart Cities and Communities Strategies. IDC Government Insights has published its worldwide forecasts and strategic predictions, please access the report IDC FutureScape: Worldwide Smart Cities and Communities 2020 Predictions (IDC FutureScape #US44970019, October 2019).

For more information about IDC Smart City Asia Pacific Awards, visit [www.idc.com/ap/smartcities](http://www.idc.com/ap/smartcities). For queries about the methodology used for the Smart Development Index, contact Gerald Wang at [gwang@idc.com](mailto:gwang@idc.com). For media inquiries, contact Rebecca Baily, [rbaily@idc.com](mailto:rbaily@idc.com)

#### About IDC Government Insights

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For more information contact:

Rebecca Baily (rbaily)

[rbaily@idc.com](mailto:rbaily@idc.com)

006493746691