



Media release

Thursday 4 December 2014

Sewerage Scheme wins Engineering Award

The Eastern Selwyn Sewerage Scheme has won a second award for engineering excellence.

MWH New Zealand, who designed the Eastern Selwyn Sewerage Scheme received the Water, Waste and Amenities Award for the project from the New Zealand Engineering Excellence Awards at an awards ceremony in Auckland on 28 November.

The scheme connects Springston, Prebbleton, Lincoln, Rolleston and West Melton to the newly redeveloped Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant to the west of Rolleston through a pipe network with pump stations at Lincoln and Rolleston.

Shane Bishop from MWH New Zealand Ltd says there were significant technical complexities and difficulties to overcome in designing the scheme.

"The design of the scheme was well underway before the Canterbury earthquakes occurred. The earthquakes created a number of challenges as Selwyn district needed to plan for more rapid population growth in light of the earthquakes so the design of the scheme needed to be amended to reflect this."

A solar air drying hall was incorporated into the design of the new Pines Wastewater Treatment plant. This design has not been used before in New Zealand and provides an innovative solution to drying sludge, which is created as a by-product of the wastewater treatment process, using the natural climate. 70% of the sludge is evaporated at the site using this method which has allowed cost savings in sludge removal.

New Zealand Engineering Excellence Awards Panel Judge Peter Higgs says the award is, "further testament to the outstanding quality and ingenuity that is being evidenced across many areas of the Christchurch rebuild" and demonstrates excellent contribution "not only to the ongoing rebuild but also the future sustainability of the surrounding environment."

This is the second award the Eastern Selwyn Sewerage Scheme has won. Earlier this year, MWH won an engineering excellence award in the IPWEA (Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia) New Zealand Awards in the category for projects over \$10 million for its design, delivery and development of the scheme.

Murray Washington, Assets Manager at Selwyn District Council says that, to date, the completed wastewater treatment system has exceeded performance expectations. "The scheme also has the capacity to cope with future population growth in our rapidly expanding district and it provides an environmentally sustainable wastewater treatment system."

In Selwyn, Fonterra's Darfield Milk Processing Plant also received an award in the Chemical Bio and Food category.

Ends

Image attached: an aerial view of the Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant where wastewater from the Eastern Selwyn Sewerage Scheme is treated.

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