



Media Release  
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## **Sewerage Scheme wins engineering award**

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

The scheme, designed by MWH New Zealand Ltd, 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.

MWH New Zealand Ltd, with project partners HEB Construction (as lead contractor for the Wastewater Treatment Plant) and Selwyn District Council 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.

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 and 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.”

Other challenges included keeping to the project timeline when on-going aftershocks were occurring and completing the project in an environment where there was a much higher demand for engineering and construction skills.

In their comments the IPWEA New Zealand award judges noted that the project required innovative design and project management including the balancing of wastewater flows to minimise the size of the infrastructure, staging of the scheme development to keep costs manageable, and significant infrastructure reuse. There was an existing Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant at the site so the design of the new plant needed to make use of the existing plant components.

The judges also noted that an innovative solution was used to dry sludge, which is created as a by-product of the wastewater treatment process, using the natural climate. A solar air drying hall specifically designed for wastewater treatment purposes was incorporated into the design of the new Pines Wastewater Treatment plant. This has allowed cost savings in sludge removal.

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.”

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