

# Engineers Australia

## Media Release



ENGINEERS  
AUSTRALIA

19/09/2024

### Hybrid Power and Propulsion System among Newcastle Engineering Excellence Award winners

The region's most innovative engineers and engineering projects have been named at the 2024 Engineers Australia Excellence Awards – People and Projects Newcastle, held at Merewether Surfhouse last night.

“Honouring the trailblazers of the engineering world, the [Engineers Australia Excellence Awards](#) celebrate both individual achievements and the broader influence of the profession. By recognising these contributions, we not only elevate their work but also lay the groundwork for the next generation to continue this legacy,” said Engineers Australia General Manager – Newcastle, Helen Link.

Local winners will go on to represent their division at the national awards' gala dinner on 21 November at the Brisbane City Hall.

#### Newcastle Project of the Year

##### Hybrid Power and Propulsion System for Maritime Vessels - Ampcontrol

In collaboration with Ampcontrol, Steber International, and the University of Newcastle, the project designed, constructed, and demonstrated a 600kW hybrid power system for a 43-foot boat. This innovative solution addresses critical challenges in reducing carbon emissions in the maritime sector, supporting the goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. The project's collaborative approach and cutting-edge engineering solutions have set a high standard for the maritime industry, with the potential for scalable applications both locally and internationally.

#### Newcastle Professional Engineer of the Year:

##### Amanda Kerr – AECOM

Amanda Kerr is recognised for her impactful career as an environmental engineer and leader. As AECOM's Area Manager for the Hunter Region, she leads a team of over 100 engineers and scientists, delivering critical projects and driving sustainability initiatives. Her expertise in project management, health and safety, and environmental impact assessments has resulted in the successful completion of projects across various sectors. Amanda's leadership in AECOM's Sustainable Legacies strategy and her dedication to diversity and inclusion through volunteer work and outreach programmes have made her a highly deserving recipient of this award.

#### Newcastle Emerging Professional Engineer of the Year

##### Cameron Denecker – Aurecon

Cameron Denecker is recognised for his exceptional early-career achievements and leadership in engineering. As an Associate at Aurecon and a Chartered Engineer, he has managed complex projects, including a \$90 million programme for the Department of Defence. His work on Aurecon's modular bridge system has reduced construction risks and costs. His commitment to sustainability and diversity is evident in his projects, where he actively recruits graduates and Indigenous students while promoting inclusive work environments. He was also awarded the 2022 National Future Leader by the Australian Institute of Project Management.

Events like these are not possible without the support of our Excellence Awards category partners:

- Edith Cowan University - Emerging Professional Engineer of the Year
- Bluebeam - Professional Engineer of the Year
- Department of Transport and Main Roads - Engineering Associate of the Year
- Metecno - Project of the Year

**Engineers Australia:** As Australia's national engineering body, we champion our 127,000 plus members, providing resources, connections and growth for high-value work in our communities.

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