

## MEDIA RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **1 tree down = 100 in the ground. AIQS sustainability award winning project makes trees count.**

*For every tree deemed to be 'valuable' that had to be removed, 100 new plants were sown in Melbourne Airport's Airport Drive Project – which recently won the project managers, North Projects Pty Ltd the AIQS 2015 Infinite Value Awards Sustainable/Green Project award.*

Sustainability was key for the \$100million Airport Drive project, commissioned by Australia Pacific Airports (Melbourne) (APAM), the operators of Melbourne Airport. With the aim of improving access to the airport and managing stormwater flow from the airport's 2,400 hectare site, the project comprises a dual carriageway road with two lanes in each direction, realignment and truncation of existing roads, significant enhancements to Steele Creek North and a new stormwater harvesting system.

The project recently won the WoodSolutions-sponsored Sustainable/Green Project award at the 2015 AIQS Infinite Value Awards.

Before work commenced, arborists examined the trees on the site, and for every tree removed that was deemed valuable, 100 new plants were sown. Even lesser rated trees were replanted at the rate of five to one. Trees, however are just one aspect of the extensive sustainability credentials of the project.

The 5 million litre stormwater drainage and processing system incorporates a retarding basin, underground raw water storage, rain garden and raw water treatment facility. Treated, non-potable water is made available to the airport, Essendon Football Club and other airport users.

During construction, application of environmental best practice construction techniques ensured that the development maintained APAM's certified environmental management system to ISO14001. Natural resources were reused wherever possible during construction, sustainable products were selected and the project strictly followed the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act1999 that provides for the preservation of native habitats on federally leased land.

"I'm impressed with the breadth and depth of detail in the attention to sustainability," said Eileen Newbury, Marketing and Communications Manager at Forest and Wood Products Australia, the industry services company resourcing WoodSolutions, "and it's great to see the value of the trees on site being recognised too."

The Airport Drive project was designed and constructed by John Holland and project managed by North Projects, the design team included Aurecon (road & services consultants), Spiire (major drainage & stormwater consultants) and Aspect Studios (landscaping consultants).



**About WoodSolutions™ & Forest and Wood Products Australia Limited (FWPA)**

WoodSolutions™ is managed by FWPA and supported by companies and organisations in the Australian forest and wood products industry.

FWPA is the forestry and wood industry's service provider, investing in research and development, and providing research results to the forest and wood products industry in Australia. FWPA aims to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of the Australian forest and wood products industry through innovation, and investment in effective and relevant R&D. FWPA undertakes industry-level activities where a collective approach can deliver more effective and valuable commercial outcomes than individual action.

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