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Photo courtesy of Sunshine Coast Council



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WATER



Spotless leads the way in water conservation

Spotless' Laundries business has saved over 290 million litres of water by refining its filtration process.

With water being a critical component of its Laundries operations, water conservation is one of the biggest environmental challenges Spotless faces.

In 2017, Spotless installed Blue Ocean filtration units, providing a refined filtration process designed to harvest water from specific parts of the wash cycle and insert it into other wash stages to reduce water and energy use. Spotless has installed this unit at its five largest laundries: Abbotsford (Victoria), Dudley Park (South Australia),

Rosebery (New South Wales), North Rocks (New South Wales) and Murdoch (Western Australia).

Since these installations, Spotless' Laundries business has saved over 290 million litres of water – equivalent to 116 Olympic swimming pools.

To further improve its conservation of water, Spotless has implemented water management plans (as part of the business planning process), rainwater harvesting and installed new water-efficient washers.

These initiatives have reduced water use by 80 per cent in the Laundries business.

Spotless is the only national operator of health care linen services Australia-wide and is an industry leader in water conservation.





Photo courtesy of Sunshine Coast Council



Solar farm makes history by offsetting 100% of local Council's electricity consumption

Pictured is Downer's Executive Director, Utilities, Trevor Cohen, Sunshine Coast Mayor, Mark Jamieson, Councillor, Stephen Robinson, and Glenn Butcher MP.

The new 15 MW solar farm on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, has made history as the first renewable energy source to offset **100 per cent** of a local Council's electricity consumption (across its facilities and operations).

The solar farm is now the second largest in Queensland and the sixth largest in Australia, set to save \$22 million in energy bills over 30 years.

Sunshine Coast Mayor, Mark Jamieson, said:

"All power consumed at all of Council's facilities, including administration buildings, aquatic centres, community and performance venues, as well as holiday parks, libraries, art galleries and sporting facilities, will be offset with energy from a renewable source thanks to this nation-leading project".

The solar farm opened in July, and Downer is contracted to deliver operations and maintenance services for another two years.

Trevor Cohen, Executive Director from Downer's Utilities team, said Downer was pleased to partner with the Council on its journey towards becoming Australia's most sustainable region.

"Downer is looking forward to growing our relationship with Council and the community," Mr Cohen said.



Photo courtesy of Sunshine Coast Council

Solar farm facts at a glance:

The Sunshine Coast Solar Farm is the



in Queensland



in Australia

- The solar farm can generate **15,000 kilowatts** of electricity;
- The electricity generated over one year is enough to power the equivalent of **5,000 homes**;
- The solar farm consists of over **57,000 panels** held above the floodplain.



AWARDS



Downer recognised for innovative water solution

Downer's Mareeba Wastewater Treatment Plant project has been announced as the winner of the Innovation in Water Award at this year's Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) Excellence Awards in Queensland.

The plant, which opened in July this year, is located in Mareeba, Far North Queensland, approximately 60 km west of Cairns. The plant exceeds the requirements of the environmental licence, and has been designed to support current and future growth in the Mareeba community.

In accepting the award, Mareeba Shire Council Project Manager, Glenda Kirk, praised the performance of the plant and the strong working relationship developed with Downer.

As the winner of the state award, the project is now in the running for a National IPWEA award.

"We were very pleased to partner with Council in delivering the new wastewater treatment plant, which not only exceeds effluent licence requirements but also meets the future growth of the local community,"

said Andrew McGowan, Operations Manager from Downer's Utilities team.



Pictured at the awards ceremony is Andrew Morrison (Downer Project Manager), Glenda Kirk (Mareeba Shire Council Project Manager), Morris Hamill (Mareeba Shire Council Manager of Water & Wastewater) and Andrew McGowan (Downer Operations Manager).



Diverting bitumen waste from landfill in New Zealand

Downer's Roads business has installed a new recycling system at a bitumen manufacturing plant in New Zealand.

The new system takes bitumen emulsion and converts it back into useable bitumen. Bitumen emulsion is created when bitumen has been dispersed with water so that it can be sprayed onto the road at a low temperature.

Located in New Plymouth on New Zealand's North Island, the system has processed 40,000 litres of waste emulsion to create 25,000 litres of bitumen. The 40,000 litres of waste emulsion would normally be sent to a specialist company, to be treated before going to landfill.



Downer has a goal of diverting over 80% of waste from landfill, and this initiative will help the Group to achieve this.

This isn't the first recycling initiative that has come from the Roads business. Over the past few years Downer's asphalt plants have reprocessed toner cartridges, glass, as well as rubber from tyres to manufacture asphalt.

What is waste emulsion?

Spray seal bitumen – the product manufactured in New Plymouth – uses a different production and application process to asphalt.

Bitumen spray sealing is achieved by spraying a thin film of bitumen onto the road surface, and then covering it with a layer of aggregate (a collection of materials such as sand, gravel and crushed stone).

This differs from asphalt, which is a hot mix of bitumen, aggregate and sand applied through a paving machine. Bitumen spray seal is more commonly used in rural, low-traffic areas.

Bitumen emulsion is a process applied during the manufacturing of spray seal. The bitumen is chemically dispersed with water so that it can be sprayed at a lower temperature.

Waste emulsion is created when bitumen emulsion is manufactured.



Downer's Micala Witton wins sustainability award

Micala Witton, National Environmental Sustainability Advisor in Downer's Road Services business has been awarded the Environmental Sustainability Award at the NAWIC awards in Victoria.

NAWIC, the National Association of Women in Construction, showcases the achievements and advancements of women within the construction industry. The Environmental Sustainability Award is aimed at recognising a woman who shows unwavering commitment and an innovative approach to sustainability.

"It's very pleasing to see Micala awarded with NAWIC's Environmental Sustainability Award, which recognises her tremendous efforts in the industry," said Lina De Silva, Executive General Manager, Human Resources, Downer's Infrastructure Services team.

The award recognises an individual's use of innovative practices, new technologies, as well as their impact on the workforce, community and environment.



Pictured is Micala with Dante Cremasco, EGM Road Services, Infrastructure Services (left) and Sergio Cinerari, Chief Executive Officer, Infrastructure Services (right).



Downer's 2017 Sustainability Report

Downer has released its 2017 Sustainability Report.

The report outlines Downer's management approach and performance against sustainability KPIs for FY17 and identifies key focus areas for FY18.

Here are some highlights from the report:

- Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) 0.55 – down by 16.7%;
- Reduced energy intensity by 3.4%, meaning a 25% reduction since FY10;
- Reduced carbon intensity by 4.7%, meaning a 30% reduction since FY10.

It highlights key Downer initiatives that promote diversity, inclusiveness and employee professional development. Major milestones include the release of the Downer Reconciliation Action Plan, the continuation of the Maori Leadership Program in New Zealand and our partnership with Jawun in Australia.

You can read the Sustainability Report on Downer's website by going to www.downergroup.com/sustainability-reports





Gardening for Ronald McDonald House

Downer recently teamed up with the Ronald McDonald House to upgrade the garden surrounding its local house in Tamworth, NSW.

Downer has been building the nbn™ network in Tamworth and took the opportunity to engage with the local community and put the team’s groundwork skills to a different use.

The team returned the garden, installed a sprinkler system, removed tree roots and installed garden edging.

The staff at Ronald McDonald House treated the Downer team to a ‘thank you lunch’ for the hard work.

“It is the generous support of the community that continues to allow Ronald McDonald House Tamworth to keep families close when they need it most”, House Community Engagement Coordinator, Debby Herdegen, said.

Luke Rowlands, General Manager of Communications at Downer, explained how important charity work is to the team.

“It was a very productive day, and it was great to spend some time together as a team to do something that supports the community of Tamworth and the people involved with Ronald McDonald House. We have been installing the nbn™ in the local area, so it was nice to be able to strengthen our relationship with the local community and leave a positive legacy in the area.”

“The activities allowed for Downer, nbn™ and our construction partners to do something together as a team. We were able to strengthen relationships with a few laughs and a bit of sweat,” said Luke.

Ronald McDonald House is a not-for-profit organisation that helps seriously ill children and their families. To see how you can get involved, visit www.rmhc.org.au.

60 seconds with...



Natasha Palethorpe
National Employee
Support in Downer’s
Mining business

What does your role involve?

My role has evolved from the original title of Regional Health Advisor, which was aimed at increasing health literacy, managing workers compensation claims and implementing health and wellbeing interventions. In the last three years I have been able to completely reshape the role to focus entirely on increasing the mental health literacy of the Mining division. Since then, we have been able to provide internal support to our employees, deliver over fifty mental health first aid courses and implement a high functioning peer support program.

What are the most important skills required for your role?

Empathy and a diverse set of clinical skills and experiences – both physical and psychological – are crucial in this role. The ability to connect and develop creative interventions for the various Mining teams/sites has also been a very useful skill.

What do you enjoy most about working at Downer?

Without sounding too cliché, to be fair I am a therapist, it’s the people. I am never bored and I am always encouraged to be creative and find “outside the box” initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of our employees.

What do you like to do when you’re not at work?

I’m an avid fan of self-care so when I’m not at work you can find me planning my next exotic holiday, sailing, fishing, scuba diving, playing the ukulele (poorly) and socialising with friends and family. Occasionally, I’ve been known to partake in a good G&T or red wine.



COMMUNITY



Creating more sustainable offices for Downer

Downer recently joined forces with The Sustainable Future Collective to host Downer's very first 'hackathon' event, Hack Our Future, at the Kerrs Road office in Auckland.

The Hack Our Future event was aimed at coming up with innovative ways to improve sustainability in the office.

The Sustainable Future Collective comprises a group of students from the University of Auckland whose aim is to bring a fresh and modern twist to sustainability.

Tom Soderstrom, IT Chief Technology Officer at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, launched the event with a presentation on the groundbreaking research and developments taking place at NASA.

Participants were then separated into teams and tasked with creating unique solutions to five challenges:

Health & wellbeing: How can Downer help employees to be more active during their working day?

Communication: How can Downer use the building space to improve communication?

Employee numbers: Downer's numbers are growing at Kerrs Road, but the office isn't. How can Downer best make use of the space at Kerrs Rd?

Waste: How can Downer improve waste management?

Energy: How can Downer reduce its energy bills in the office

The winners were decided by a Downer panel, with first place going to a group of students who created truly innovative solutions to the office's energy problem. Their proposal was to install solar panels, retrofit some of Downer's heavy vehicle fleet with electric motors and change the office's electricity supplier to Ecotricity.

To find out more about the Sustainable Future Collective, visit them on Facebook at @sustainablefuturecollective.

Getting hands on for Landcare Week

In September, Downer was one of 12 companies to partner with Landcare Australia to volunteer for conservation activities at Bradleys Head, one of Sydney Harbour's seven headlands and part of the Sydney Harbour National Park.

Downer employees participated in activities including removing invasive plant species and planting native species, as well as removing rubbish around the foreshore and nearby beach.

Ricky Bridge, Group General Manager Environment Operations at Downer, said: "Getting hands on with Landcare provided an opportunity to make a real difference to Sydney Harbour's natural environment. It also provided a great chance to network with other businesses and colleagues outside of the office."

Landcare Australia is a not-for-profit organisation, and registered charity, which aims to protect, restore and sustain Australia's natural environment. Landcare Australia also works directly with farmers, to ensure that their production and water use are more environmentally sustainable.

If you would like to partner with Landcare, email Downer's Sustainability team at sustainability@downergroup.com.au



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