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MEDIA RELEASE

Nominations open for development's top-performing women

Women in the Queensland development industry are being called on to nominate themselves or another brilliant woman for industry recognition following the official launch of the 4th annual Women in Development Excellence Awards this week.

An initiative of the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA), the peak body representing the development industry in Queensland, the WID Awards recognise the outstanding achievements of women in development and are designed to encourage more women to join what remains a male dominated industry.

WID is now accepting nominations until 5:00pm, 14 August 2009, with winners to be announced at an official awards ceremony and cocktail party on 30 October 2009 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Celebrations will be two-fold as 2009 marks the 10th anniversary of Women in Development. The initiative was formed in 1999 as a forum for women to participate, network and share knowledge in the industry, and has seen an enormous increase in member representation and attendance at WID events.

UDIA (Qld) President Warren Harris said all women in the development industry should seriously consider entering themselves or another inspiring woman for an award.

"I encourage all women who make a positive impact on the development industry to take advantage of this industry-recognised awards program," Mr Harris said.

"All too often we discount the significant achievements we make but it's through initiatives such as the WID Awards that women can gain recognition for their achievements in order to further develop their careers."

Awards span eight distinct categories from a student award through to a workplace award and, for the first time this year, a category titled – Outstanding Achievement by a Woman – Developing a Sustainable Environment.

The shared brainchild of the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Campbell Newman and UDIA (Qld) Chief Executive, Brian Stewart, the new category will recognise one outstanding woman who demonstrates a personal commitment to the promotion of sustainable urban development outcomes and who has facilitated the implementation of such outcomes on an urban development project.

The WID Excellence Awards program is the only forum designed specifically to recognise and reward excellent women in the development industry. Past winners have gone on to achieve further success and have paid credit to the WID Awards for helping to open doors in their careers.

Nomination packs can be downloaded from the UDIA (Qld) website (www.udiaql.com.au). Entrants must be a member of WID (or employed by a member organisation) to be nominated, with the exception of category six.

The 2009 Women in Development Excellence Awards categories are:

- Category 1: Outstanding Achievement by a Woman – Strategic Management
- Category 2: Outstanding Achievement by a Woman – Project Management
- Category 3: Outstanding Achievement by a Woman – Professional and Development Services
- Category 4: Outstanding Achievement by a Woman – Industry Support Services
- Category 5: Outstanding Achievement by a Woman – Government
- Category 6: Dr Paula Whitman's Future Leader Award (Student)
- Category 7: Women in Development – Workplace Award
- Category 8: Outstanding Achievement by a Woman – Developing a Sustainable Environment

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