

# Queensland Spatial Excellence Awards 2017

## Citation

### **Young Professional of the Year Award**

#### **Dale Atkinson**

Dale came to work with Mike Lodewyk at Mount Isa as a Survey Graduate in January 2007. He soon demonstrated his skills by, after the probationary three months, negotiating the highest salary they had ever paid to a graduate of his experience.

His professional skills expanded as he applied his academic knowledge to the practical engineering and mining problems that required a sound solution. Dale became a most sought-after surveyor; achieving remarkable results with shaft sinking at George Fisher, deformation studies at Century, earthworks at Gunpowder and many other projects.

Dale completed his registration as an Engineering and Cadastral Surveyor in 2013 and subsequently moved to Townsville and joined Jack Booy in the firm Atkinson and Booy Consulting Surveyors.

#### Outstanding performance

Dale has strong opinions about the practice of surveying and has no hesitation about researching and then arguing his opinion and position. During the years he worked with Mike they had many such debates that certainly challenged Mike's thinking. Today, in his own practice, he does not shy away from debate with registering authorities and others when his opinions and practices are challenged, often he is correct.

Major issues managed by Dale include DNRM requirements for GNSS surveys in outback Queensland, cadastral access to Queensland Railway land and the apparent conflicts with the Surveying & Mapping Infrastructure Act and issues involving Community Title Schemes and easements for access and services associated with subdivisions.

#### Leadership

This year Dale took on the role of SSSI Northern Group Chair and with Stephen Jess, it was a most successful year in North Queensland. Dale provided the lead in North Queensland in the Queensland Regional Committee and Land Surveying Commission in 2017.

The most obvious success was Dale's work in organising the 2017 SSSI Northern Group Conference which attracted more the double the previous attendees. The Conference contained a very broad cross-section of material that was directly relevant to the working land surveyors. With some 96 attendees at the conference and record membership in 2017, Dale's leadership qualities have been proven by the fruits of his dedication.

Dale is a member of the Queensland Regional Committee, Queensland Land Surveying Commission, SSSI Qld YP Group, and previous Chair of the SSSI Northern Group and SSSI Townsville Town Group.

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### Judges' Comments

“Very professional young surveyor.”

“As a young professional Dale demonstrates outstanding leadership in his profession and his desire for the progress of his profession is further demonstrated by his active participation in professional organisations. His understanding of the need for ongoing learning is exemplified by the range of study he has undertaken to date as well as his current further study in law.”

“Dale shows a strong interest in being an expert in his career path as well as a strong interest in being involved in the SSSI and in developing same in his region.”