

Robert Wilson awarded Order of Australia

June 2016

Territoria Civil General Manager, Robert Wilson, was one of 14 Territorians to be recognised in the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours List with the Order of Australia for his service to the construction industry.

Spanning his career of over three decades, Robert has had a hand in building almost every major project developed in the Northern Territory (NT).

His achievements and services include:

- General Manager, Territoria Civil since 2013;
- General Manager, Macmahon Contracting Northern Territory, 2005-2013;
- General Manager, Henry Walker Eltin Northern Territory (including Western Australia and Indonesia at various times), 2001 – 2005;
- Various roles with Henry and Walker, 1976 – 2001;

Awards and affiliations include:

- Appointed first NT Companion, Engineers Australia, November 2006
- Fellow, Australian Institute of Management, October 2007.
- Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, July 2014.
- Board Member and Member, Northern Territory Division, Minerals Council of Australia and Chair, Environmental sub-committee;
- Board Member, Civil Contractors Federation, Northern Territory for over 10 years and member for over 20 years;
- National Board Member, Civil Contractors Federation, for more than 10 years.

"It's such a surprise and great honour to receive this award," said Robert.

"I'm not an engineer but I've spent my whole life in construction, so I'm deeply honoured and thankful to everyone who has supported me along the way, especially my family," he said.

In 2012, as General Manager at Macmahon Contracting Northern Territory, Robert oversaw the construction of some of the largest projects in the Territory's economic history, such as the Darwin Waterfront Precinct, INPEX Ichthys gas project (CVL2) and the Darwin Marine Supply Base. To succeed in these major projects Robert's focus is always on the local perspective.

In 2013, John Holland acquired the Macmahon construction business, and Robert has maintained the local perspective for the business (renamed Territoria Civil).

"It is extremely important that we continue to positively contribute and enhance the local economy, both directly and indirectly, and utilise existing knowledge and supply chains available in the local area," said Robert.

"Local content is essential and I can't stress enough the need to employ local people and provide opportunities for local businesses to provide goods and services for the construction of our projects," he said.

From the beginning, Robert credited the influence of his peers for his own success. He arrived in Darwin in March 1976 as a 17-year-old.

“One day, this bloke came up to me and asked me to take a truck to Bougainvillea Street in Nightcliff. I didn’t know it at the time but that bloke was Neville Walker, who was a part owner of a Territorian construction company – Henry and Walker,” said Robert.

“So, I drove up to the Shell service station and bought a map to find out where Bougainvillea Street was and my career started right there.

“Fraser Henry and Neville Walker were both excellent mentors who taught me so much,” he said.

Robert went on to work for Henry and Walker for 30 years and was destined to become a remote area construction and contract mining specialist.

In 1981, at 29 years of age, Robert met and married wife Sharon while working at Ranger Uranium Mine, and in 1988 welcomed their first child, Christopher and in 1990, a daughter, Laura.

Robert will be presented with his award at the Investiture Ceremony in October 2016.



Territoria Civil General Manager, Robert Wilson says he was very humbled to receive the Order of Australia.



Robert’s rock collection, with one from every project he has worked on.