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**Public Private Partnerships and Local Government – An  
End to the Financing Conundrum?**

*Brad McCosker*

IPWEAQ  
**2003 STATE CONFERENCE**  
MACKAY



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WINDMILL MOTEL & RECEPTION CENTRE

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## SYNOPSIS

IPWEAQ State Conference

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### Public Private Partnerships and Local Government – An End to the Financing Conundrum?

Within budget constraints, governments confronted with aging infrastructure, expanding populations and other competitive demands are turning to a closer examination of the PPP model.

The paper will look at and explain the concept of Public Private Partnerships ('PPPs'), how it works, why it is popular and topical and how local authorities, statutory bodies and others in the engineering community may use it or adapt it to achieve their capital procurement objectives.

A PPP is a technique for capital procurement (eg of infrastructure, such as water and waste water plants, waste management and the establishment of community facilities) which involves the public sector and the private sector **working together**.

The use of the PPP methodology may assist with solving competing objectives of finding the necessary financing and funding with the challenge of providing the infrastructure which growing communities need, be that to replace existing aging assets or to establish new assets.

In the course of considering the flexibility which the PPP model incorporates, the paper will consider the related topic of relationship contracting principles (eg project and strategic alliance) and contrast those with more traditional approaches to contracting for supply, construction or other procurement.

The paper will demonstrate why PPPs are an important feature on the horizon for local governments and how PPPs are in accordance with government policies. Reference to Australian and overseas experience as to the versatility of the PPP model will be made.

Brad McCosker ([bmccosker@mccullough.com.au](mailto:bmccosker@mccullough.com.au), phone 07 3233 8992) is a partner of McCullough Robertson Lawyers, Brisbane. He advises all sectors of the construction, engineering and infrastructure industries and counts a significant number of local authorities and other statutory boards as clients. He specialises in tendering and project delivery advice and presents regularly at state, national and international conferences on these topics.