

Googong North named top masterplanned development

One of the biggest private township developments in Australia has taken top honours in two awards for masterplanned communities and excellence in regional development, in the prestigious 2019 UDIA NSW awards.

Googong North sets a new benchmark for socially, economically and environmentally sustainable greenfields communities.

The innovative project – a collaboration between industry leaders Peet Limited and Mirvac – is located 16 kilometres from central Canberra, inside the NSW border.

It is the first of five self-contained neighbourhoods in the ambitious Googong development bringing lifestyle choice, affordable housing and infrastructure to the growing region. Due for completion in 2020, more than 1,800 of the 2,000 homes are built.

Innovation and sustainability underpin the contemporary neighbourhood supported by a \$292m voluntary infrastructure agreement, one of the biggest in Australia.

A highlight is the \$133m Integrated Water Cycle system providing recycled water to homes and public spaces and reducing potable water consumption by 60 per cent.

Almost 25 per cent of development land has been reserved for public open space including landmarks that celebrate the region's Aboriginal and colonial history and protected habitat for the vulnerable Pink Tailed Worm-Lizard.

The developers invested early to ensure community amenities were in place for first residents, including a community centre, sports club with indoor pool, gym and tennis courts, three ovals, two dog parks, seven playgrounds and 10 kilometres of paths.

Googong Project Director Malcolm Leslie said Googong North was the first step in the creation of a whole new town.

“This award is a tribute to the huge effort and foresight that has gone into this project including more than a decade of environmental, ecological and heritage studies.

“Providing top amenity early on was crucial for building a healthy, active and close-knit community. That sense of belonging and community pride is a hallmark of the project and has become a valuable asset. Being “Googonian” is a big attractor for residents and buyers.”

Since 2012, Googong has been one of the fastest selling developments in the country. Over the next 15 years, the project will deliver 6,500 new homes and a major commercial centre servicing a population of 18,000 people.