

Wal King is Property Person of the Year

Friday, March 7, 2008

Wal King, chief executive of Leighton Holdings, has been named as Property Person of the Year 2008 by the Urban Taskforce.

The Urban Taskforce's chief executive, Aaron Gadiel, said that Mr King has helped shape Australia with billions of dollars of development.

"Wal King's leadership of Leighton Group has been exceptional – it's not only been good for the Leighton Group, it's been great for the Australian economy," Mr Gadiel said.

"Since Mr King was appointed CEO of Leighton Holdings in 1987, he has overseen a transformation in Leighton, from a mid-tier contractor with a market capitalisation of \$100 million, to one of the leading contractors in the Asia/Pacific region and one of the most successful project development and construction groups in the world.

"Leighton Group now has a very diversified base of construction, property and services businesses in Australia, Asia and the Gulf region, and is the largest contract miner in the world.

"The Group directly employs over 29,000 staff and has some 70,000 people employed on its projects globally."

The Leighton Group has developed a number of recent iconic projects in Australia including the award winning KENS building (Westpac) and the Southern Cross Station in Melbourne. Previous major building projects in Sydney have included the Star City Casino, the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital redevelopment, the Angel Place Office Tower and Recital Hall and the ABC Headquarters in Ultimo.

The Leighton Group is currently expanding into residential development in Australia.

The Group is also delivering a number of major building projects in Asia such as the City of Dreams Casino in Macau and in the Middle East including the JAFZA convention centre in Dubai.

The Property Person of the Year Award, now in its 6th year, will be presented to Mr King at a gala charity dinner on Tuesday April 8, 2008. Proceeds of the event will be donated to Warrak Disability Services and St Vincent's Prostate Cancer Clinic.

Past winners include

- Mr Harry Triguboff, Chairman and Managing Director of Meriton Apartments Pty Ltd.

- Mr Lang Walker, Chairman of Walker Corporation
- Mr Liam Forde, Chief Executive of Boulderstone Hornibrook
- Mr Bill Moss AM, Group Head and Chief Executive Officer of the Banking and Property Group, Macquarie Bank;
- Mr Greg Goodman, Group Chief Executive Officer of Goodman International Limited;

The Urban Taskforce is a property development industry group, representing Australia's most prominent property developers and equity financiers.

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