

## MEDIA RELEASE

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**For immediate release**

### Australia's smart cities continue to gain global recognition

The inclusion of Ipswich, Queensland and Armidale, NSW in the world's Smart21 Communities for 2016 continues to provide a benchmark for Australia against its international peers, according to the Australian Smart Communities Association (ASCA).

Evaluation of Intelligent Community Forum Awards Program nominations is based on the six Intelligent Community Indicators of advocacy, broadband, knowledge workforce, innovation, digital inclusion and sustainability.

This year's theme, *From Revolution to Renaissance*, focuses on how Intelligent Communities plan their future at a time when the economy, the environment and the patterns of urban and rural life are undergoing dramatic change.

"This recognition provides the platform to build relationships and potentially commercial and investment opportunities with far greater audience reach than we would typically be exposed to locally," ASCA President Michael Whereat said.

"It's also a significant avenue to gauge the development of Australia's smart and intelligent regions in relation to our peers in North America, Europe and Asia."

Mr Whereat said Ipswich City Council, the first Australian city to be recognised as a Top7 worldwide Intelligent Community in 2015 by the [Intelligent Community Forum](#), was at the forefront of what it takes to become a smart community.

Ipswich has now been recognised as a Smart21 Intelligent Community four times - in 2011, 2012, 2015 and 2016. The city also received the 2011 Intelligent Communities Forum Founders' Award, the first time it has been granted to an Australian city, organisation or individual.

In 2015 three additional Australian communities were awarded the Smart21 recognition - Sunshine Coast (QLD), Prospect and Eastern Region Alliance in South Australia, and Whittlesea (VIC).

"These cities and regions are leading examples of how a smart city can integrate technology, smart applications and online access to maximise our regions' future prosperity," Mr Whereat said.

"Worldwide recognition by the Intelligent Communities Forum opens up opportunities to pathways for greater exposure for international investment, as well as international partnership opportunities."

Ipswich City Council will share its international success at the Australian Smart Communities Summit in March 2016 where delegates will learn from the city's example.

Mr Whereat said the Summit would provide the platform for delegates to explore challenges and opportunities to bring about transformational change to the way communities were managed.

"The Summit will provide the first all-inclusive opportunity in Australia to join with other national and international leaders who are at the forefront of smart community innovation.

"Smart communities are those which use information communication technologies and data to be more efficient. They enjoy cost and energy savings, improved service delivery, better quality of life and a reduced environmental footprint. They also support innovation and the global economy," he said.

The Australian Smart Communities Summit will be held on 2-4 March 2016 on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. For more details visit the [Australian Smart Communities Association website](#).

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## Australian Smart Communities Summit

2-4 March 2016

The Events Centre, Caloundra, Queensland

Speakers from Germany, the United States and across Australia will converge on Queensland's Sunshine Coast to impart their knowledge at the 2016 Summit. They work for leading technology, telecommunications and infrastructure providers, as well as for local government, universities and key research organisations:

- Keynote: **Dr Lutz Heuser**, Chief Technology Officer, Urban Software Institute
- International: **Mrinalini Ingram**, Senior Director, Strategy, and Business Development, Smart+Connected Communities (S+CC), Cisco Systems
- **Matthew Schultz**, Regional Digital Economy Coordinator, Ipswich City Council, Queensland
- **Dr Stuart Smith**, Professor of Disruptive Technologies, University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland
- **Paul Budde**, CEO of BuddeComm
- Master of Ceremonies: **Brad Howarth**, writer, speaker and consultant

In addition, leading disruptive, smart and digital technology researchers from Australian and New Zealand universities have been invited to give poster sessions.

[www.australiansmartcommunities.org.au](http://www.australiansmartcommunities.org.au)

## Australian Smart Communities Association

The Australian Smart Communities Association (ASCA) started as a collaborative coalition of local government, Regional Development Australia and Regional Organisations of Councils built on the premise of sharing information and advocating for the resources to assist the localised transition to a digital economy.

ASCA's membership includes representatives from government, business, industry and communities across all states and territories in Australia.

The adoption of smart technology in city/town management, energy, water, health and transport, along with high-speed broadband, could add more than 70,000 jobs to the Australian economy and bring 1.5 percent growth to Australia's Gross Domestic Product within five years.