

## When size matters

As entries in ACRA's Awards for Excellence showed this year (see report elsewhere in this issue), multi-million dollar concrete repair projects are no longer rarities.

Thirty to forty years after the building boom, the ravages of the environment, general degradation of building materials and, at times, poor construction, have necessitated a growing list of repairs of ever-greater proportions and complexities on ever-bigger structures.

### Big now common

The trend is so prevalent that the "Projects worth more than \$1million" category will eventually have to be revised upwards—or another added of higher worth—possibly even by the next ACRA Awards program.

**Even this year, several submissions were for projects over the "magic million" with the value of the winner, at \$2.2 million, being more than twice the benchmark.**

And already, since the closing of entries in mid-year, several ACRA members have won or begun concrete repair contracts well up in the six figures, promising, for next Awards judging, a record raft of entries in the higher value categories.

### No backyarders

It is stating the obvious to say that such **mega-projects can only be tackled by companies whose networks are, or who are themselves, comprehensively resourced.**

The broad range of knowledge demanded and the failure of previous attempts at fixing the problems is restricting the number of repair jobs that can be done "out of the back of a ute with a brown dog".

A multi-disciplinary team of consultants and contractors is needed to handle a range of add-on works over and above the core concrete repair capacity. Many times,



### AGE & SIZE NEED BROADER SKILLS

works will include concrete repair, waterproofing, window repairs, window replacement, civil works, BCA compliance, even air-conditioning and mechanical works.

Further, multi-million dollar works are being sparked by more factors than ever before:

- Projects wherein the Department of Fair Trading has been called upon because things weren't done right the first time.
- Large or difficult repairs on structures.
- Multi-disciplinary repairs and refurbishment.
- **The advent of high-tech solutions** such as cathodic protection, sacrificial systems and remote condition monitoring, prompting state-of-the-art repair and protection works where clients want to extend the life of the asset and don't want to come back to do repairs again within 15 years.
- A growing awareness among asset owners of their liability for injury and damage if concrete spalls off into the street, or cantilever balconies shear off due to corroded rebar, and so on.

### Team know-how

ACRA's consultants, contractors and materials suppliers have access to these multi-disciplinary teams, along with the project management knowledge to do the job properly with stringent specification and quality assurance documentation.

**So that asset owners, clients and principals can have full confidence that they are engaging a team who knows what needs to be done to ensure desired outcomes.** ■