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Whitewater Parks International appointed Design Specialist in preparation for Brisbane 2032

Whitewater Parks International (WPI) has been selected as the specialist whitewater design partner for the Redland Whitewater Centre to be developed in Queensland, Australia. Working alongside global professional services company GHD, WPI will help bring Olympic-level competition and lasting community benefits together in an innovative new venue.

GHD has been appointed Principal Consultant by Queensland's 2032 Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority (GIICA) and will lead the multidisciplinary design team. WPI brings its specialist whitewater design experience and paddler's perspective to the project, working with GHD's engineering, architectural, planning and environmental teams.

"GHD and WPI bring impressive expertise in the specialty area of design for whitewater facilities, and we are really looking forward to working together to create a fantastic legacy for Redlands, Queensland and Australia," said GIICA CEO Simon Crooks.

Located within Redland City Council's Birkdale Community Precinct, the centre is planned to support elite sport alongside community recreation, water safety education and emergency services training.

Planned features include a canoe slalom course, kayak cross launch platform, beginner channel for water safety and recreation, and a training lake for paddling and canoe polo. Amenities, changerooms, boat storage and spectator facilities will support the venue's sporting and community uses.

For WPI, the opportunity is to consider those different users from the outset—creating challenging whitewater for experienced athletes while providing welcoming spaces for people discovering paddling and rafting for the first time.

"As an Olympian with more than 25 years of designing Olympic whitewater venues, I understand the importance of balancing world-class competition with lasting community benefits," said John Felton, Design Director for Whitewater Parks International.

"What's really exciting is the potential for people to experience whitewater rafting, school children to discover new activities and emergency services to develop vital rescue skills. Embedding these opportunities into the design from the outset is fundamental to creating a meaningful legacy."

“The Redland Whitewater Centre represents an opportunity to create a venue that supports both elite sport and community participation,” said Brad Wood, Growth Leader - Major Games and Events for GHD.

“Projects of this scale require close collaboration across planning, engineering, environmental and precinct design disciplines. Our locally led team is drawing on extensive global experience from complex sporting and venue projects, working alongside Whitewater Parks International to help deliver a facility that supports Olympic competition and creates lasting benefits for the community.”

Accessibility and cultural connection are key considerations for the venue. Universal design principles will help support participation and access for athletes, spectators and community users of differing abilities, while the centre’s connection to the broader Birkdale precinct will help shape its role in community life.

WPI looks forward to working with GIICA, GHD and Redland City Council to help shape a venue with an active life well beyond competition and one the wider Brisbane communities can enjoy for generations.