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One Central Park a landmark project for Watpac

Watpac Limited (‘Watpac’ or ‘Group’) has reached a major milestone in its 30 year history with the completion of its largest project to date, One Central Park, a two tower complex which forms part of the larger Central Park precinct in Sydney.

The first stage of the $2 billion mixed-use Central Park precinct, developed by joint venture partners Frasers Property Australia and Sekisui House Australia, includes over 1,400 residential apartments in five separate towers within three complexes - One Central Park, Park Lane and The Mark.

With a contract value of $600 million, Watpac has delivered all five towers of the precinct’s first stage, with the final tower The Mark, soon to be completed.

Watpac Chief Executive Officer, Martin Monro said One Central Park, the largest of the towers in the precinct, has not only become a city landmark due to its striking architectural design, but an example of the skill and capability of the Group.

“One Central Park has been a coming-of-age project for Watpac; it has been a testament to the skill, experience and tenacity of the team in delivering this multi, and international, award winning building,” Mr Monro said.

“The project incorporated a number of firsts such as the construction of the cantilevered Sky Garden and heliostat, the only one of its kind in an Australian residential tower, and the complex façade which was the foundation for the ‘living walls’ to be brought to life.”

“Frasers and Sekisui House definitely had a vision in mind when designing the building and we are extremely proud to have been able to play a major part in making this happen.”

Watpac Construction NSW/ACT State Manager, Ric Wang, said the complexity of the project presented many unique challenges for the Watpac team.

“Watpac commenced One Central Park in 2010 and from the start, the design and safe construction of the cantilevered Sky Garden and vertical gardens, was a major focus for the construction team,” Mr Wang said.

“These two aspects of the project are what make One Central Park the jewel of the precinct. Neither element had been constructed to this scale in Australia before, so it was important that we invested in the best resources available to ensure our approach would actually turn a concept in to a reality, especially in regard to the ‘living walls’.

“Patrick Blanc’s garden concept is a hydroponic system which in effect hangs off the building, so we had to revise the original façade design and methodology to make it possible.”

Two years of planning and building followed with Watpac developing a solution which saw individually designed planter boxes installed, supported by the floor slabs, to create the ‘living wall’ aspect of the façade design. Each horizontal and vertical planter required its own irrigation system which is managed through a building management system which also monitors environmental conditions.
“Essentially this type of façade build had not been attempted successfully elsewhere so we were determined to create something that actually brought the vision to life,” Mr Wang said.

“To work with Patrick Blanc and see the final effect of these gardens is something we are extremely proud of, knowing that our methodology and skills created this iconic façade.”

Nationally, Watpac is delivering a number of major tower projects including the $206 million 180 Brisbane commercial tower and $114 million Southpoint office tower in Brisbane, the $80 million STK Apartments residential tower in St Kilda, the $72 million 333 George Street office tower in the Sydney CBD, and the $32 million Mayfair Hotel development in Adelaide.

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Note to editors: Watpac is a leading national construction, mining contracting and property development group. We have been listed on the Australian Stock Exchange since 1985 and have offices in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Townsville and Port Macquarie. More information is available at www.watpac.com.au.

One Central Park façade facts:

- 350 different species of plants used in the green walls alone
- 35,000 green wall plants
- 85,000 façade plants in total
- 23 green walls = 1200m² total.
- Largest green wall is in the East Tower = 196m²
- 5,500 planter boxes surround every level of the East and West Towers and five levels of the retail podium
- 15km of 4mm diameter stainless steel cables used across the project
- 2,100 stainless steel springs used to keep vine cables tensioned
- 2,486 glass façade panels on the East Tower = 12,678m² of glass
- 820 glass façade panels on West Tower = 4,428m² of glass
- Total area of glass on both towers = 17,106m² x 12.5mm thickness x 2.5kg/mm = 534.5 tonnes of glass.