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ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA

ENGINEERING IDEAS INTO REALITY

WHO ARE AUSTRALIA'S MOST
INNOVATIVE
2016
ENGINEERS?

MARK COMBE
**INNOVATION: REINFORCING
CONCRETE THROUGH RECYCLING**

Director, Fibercon
BE (Civil), University of NSW, James Cook University

Fibercon was the industry sponsor of a three-year PhD program at James Cook University to develop Emesh, a 100% Recycled Macro Plastic Fibre Reinforcing made from industrial plastic wastes. The fibres can reinforce concrete in footpaths, cycleways, shotcrete and small precast elements. The Fibercon/JCU team produced recycled polypropylene (PP) fibres from industrial plastic wastes such as off-cuts and off-specification items. Using industrial waste ensures a constant source of recycled plastic with reliable quality control. This process of producing recycled plastic fibres is suitable for large-scale commercial production.

