

# *Category 5: Young Stabiliser of the Year*

## Chirag (Chigs) Karsan

Senior Project Engineer  
WA Stabilising



## *2023 AustStab Awards of Excellence*

*Proudly sponsored by* **CATERPILLAR®**



# Overview

- Chirag Karsan (better known to the team as Chigs) began his stabilisation journey as a 23-year-old undergraduate in Construction Management of Applied Science at Curtin University, Western Australia. Chirag completed his degree in January 2022.
- Chirag joined the WA Stabilising team in May 2020 as a Project Engineer and later progressed to Senior Project Engineer.
- Having started his position in the office, the management quickly saw Chirag's drive and ability in his work, and he was moved to project engineer later that year where he is now known as one of the most well-respected stabilisation site engineers in the state.

*Proudly sponsored by* **CATERPILLAR®**



Pavement Recycling and Stabilisation Association

# Initiatives Undertaken

Chirag has excelled in his role and has shown the following qualities over his time in the industry

## Project Quality Documentation and Approvals

- Chirag has added significant value to the team when out in the field. There is no doubt his greatest skill is his ability to collate, review and submit project QA in a timely manner. For WA Stabilising's clients, gaining quick access to the project QA allows them to have a level of comfort and trust not always experienced by our competitors.

## Honesty

- He has always provided the team and clients alike with an honest approach to his work. If he does not know the answer, he will always search out the right person and educate himself on what the correct answer will be and provide it. He is now very proficient in all aspects of the stabilisation industry.

## Safety

- Chirag has always led by example and is very astute in identifying hazards on site and working with the team to find solutions in a confident and calm manner.

*Proudly sponsored by* **CATERPILLAR®**



# Operating Environments

## Albany Hwy, Wheatbelt WA 2020

- Experienced high traffic volumes due to the grain season in Western Australia which greatly increases the number of Heavy Vehicles on the network
- Inclement weather
- Changes to the stabilisation treatment types

## Marble Bar Rd, Pilbara WA 2021

- Works were in an isolated and remote location in WA
- Extreme hot working climate
- Oversize gravel which led to drum wear and maintenance

## Mid-West Gascoyne Pavement Repairs 2022

- Project covered a large area within the network
- Water and gravel shortages
- Management of external contractors

## Manuwarra Red Dog, Pilbara WA 2023

- Largest scale project undertaken by WA Stabilising
- Largest indigenous engagement by WA Stabilising



Proudly sponsored by **CATERPILLAR®**

# Overcoming Challenges

## Albany Highway

- Watching traffic counts and working closely with the traffic control contractor to implement changes to the TMP as required
- When the scope was changed, Chirag worked with the client and Project Manager to create a revised scope and design to then quickly provide the client with a variation that will reduce stand-down and ensure quick resolution to site challenges

## Marble Bar Road

- Ensured site crew had access to satellite phone and all long-distance travel was done in convoy
- Continuously monitored pick and drum wear and communicated daily with company workshop and Stabiliser operator to ensure sufficient maintenance and GET

## Mid-West Region Pavement Repairs

- Drove ahead of the crews to ensure crew had sufficient gravel and water sources were identified

## Manuwarra Red Dog

- Helped develop a 'one team' culture on the project where all contractors felt part of a single team chasing a single goal

*Proudly sponsored by* **CATERPILLAR®**



Pavement Recycling and Stabilisation Association



# Evidence of Success

## Colin Betts, Senior SHEQ & Traffic Manager, Ventia

- Chirag was an excellent ambassador for your brand, his contribution to our pre-starts was quite substantial for the operational components. However, it was his repeated and continuous contribution into the SHEQ component of the pre-starts that impressed me the most. It is rare to get such a genuine and initiative-based interaction from contractor project teams to the level he involved himself outside of other safety professionals.
- His conduct in the field was exemplary, not just during direct observation, but from what was overheard on the UHF and observed via the drone footage I obtained. His focus on the safety of his work group in preference to productivity allowed him to generate one of the best balances between both these items I've seen to date.
- He was popular and respected throughout all the work groups and it is a shame that balancing various project requirements for WA Stabilising required his redirection in the twilight of this project.
- Chirag is welcome on any Ventia project where I command the SHEQ component. If all engineers were half as professional and considerate relating to WHS & Environment, my job would become infinitely easier.

## Leon Krige – Regional Project Manager Wheatbelt - Main Roads WA

- Chirag has been WA Stabilising's site engineer for a number of years on our network. I have always found Chirag a smart and personable contractor representative.
- He has good knowledge of the tasks being undertaken and was always approachable with questions or concerns I had about the project. Chirag is a great company representative to have on the ground and a great reflection of the company culture within WA Stabilising.

## Rob Parsons – Site Supervisor – WA Stabilising

- It has always been a pleasure to have Chigs as site engineer on our projects. I have always found him a great sound-board when querying the commercial sides of the contracts. He is very tech-savvy, which helps the operators understand the Apps the company run to manage safety and timesheets.

*Proudly sponsored by* **CATERPILLAR®**



Pavement Recycling and Stabilisation Association

# Supporting Data

- Chirag has been awarded the company Values Award by his peers for showing our core values – Pride and Honesty.
- Chirag has shown pride in his work by setting a high standard of quality and respect he shows to everyone onsite including the client and public.
- Chirag shows no question is impossible to answer and will source the most up to date information for the crews.
- Chirag has completed his CPEE Stabilisation Fundamentals, Traffic Management and Traffic Control and Fire Warden training.



*Proudly sponsored by* **CATERPILLAR®**

# Conclusion

WA Stabilising is proud to nominate Chirag Karsan as Young Stabiliser of the Year 2023.

He is a great asset to our team and lives for the values of the business.



Proudly sponsored by **CATERPILLAR®**