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## Media Release

### Awards for Sustainable Cities Now Open!

3 June 2005

The Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW) 2005 Sustainable Cities Awards were launched at the Sydney Town Hall today.

The Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards program provides major recognition of environmental endeavours and initiatives carried out by the metropolitan councils of Sydney, Newcastle, the Blue Mountains and Wollongong.

Programs that minimise and control waste, encourage ecologically sustainable development, that celebrate diverse community cultures and develop strong partnerships between local communities and local government, that better manage and preserve heritage buildings, conserve green space and bushland to encourage wildlife conservation and renewal are all recognised in the Sustainable Cities Awards program.

The Sustainable Cities Awards also encourage and recognise the small-scale environmental actions of community groups, schools and individuals so active in our urban neighbourhoods today. Together they all make a big difference to our quality of place.

In launching the program for Keep Australia Beautiful for 2005, Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP said sustainability was central to the City of Villages vision for Sydney.

"Sustainable development and integrated planning are vital for ensuring Sydney is attractive, safe and liveable, while enhancing our role as Australia's economic powerhouse and international gateway," Ms Moore said.

"The City is experiencing enormous population growth, with dwelling completions this year expected to match the entire residential growth in new release areas of metropolitan Sydney.

"For sustainable growth, Sydney needs long-term planning and the provision of the necessary infrastructure, including reliable and affordable public transport.

"We will work toward a sustainable city through creative planning, liaison with government and businesses, and meaningful consultation. The City will be an environmental leader in using fewer natural resources, addressing climate change and reducing our ecological footprint."

The Chair of Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW), the Honourable Pam Allan MP, thanked Clover Moore for providing the inspirational Sydney Town Hall as the venue for the launch of the 2005 awards program.

"The beautiful Sydney Town Hall is a fine example of the type of building that could be entered in the Sustainable Cities Award for the management and conservation of heritage buildings.

"Like the Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns Awards for rural communities, our Sustainable Cities Awards identify, recognise and reward both individual projects and holistic approaches.

"They help raise public awareness of the myriad of environmental issues that impact on all metropolitan communities as they expand to accommodate ever-increasing urban populations.

"New South Wales' urban metropolises attract a burgeoning number of people often because of the significant natural beauty of their locations. Sydney's world-renowned harbour, the Blue Mountains' heritage wilderness, Newcastle's pristine beaches and Wollongong's rugged escarpment could all be loved to death in the future without proper vigilance and care today," Pam Allan said.

The keynote address at today's launch of the 2005 Sustainable Cities Awards was presented by The Hon Craig Knowles MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, who said the Awards were an important incentive that complemented the Government's Metropolitan Plan for Sydney.

"As we've talked with communities across Sydney and the surrounding regions we've heard time and time again how proud residents are of their city and their suburb.

"Sydney is a growing city. The population of the region increases by around a thousand people every week and we have to think both creatively and practically about how we accommodate that growth, without losing the character and the sense of community we love.

"This Award program is an important way to engage and reward communities for the preservation and enhancement of those features.

"I look forward to learning of the 2005 Sustainable Cities Awards winners when they are announced in September," Mr Knowles said.

Matthew Taylor, CEO of Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW) thanked Mr Knowles for his address and for his interest in the Sustainable Cities Awards program.

"As well as receiving corporate support for our work, several of the individual Sustainable Cities awards are sponsored by New South Wales Government departments and we are grateful for their on-going support which enables us to continue and expand our awards program," Matthew Taylor said.

As well as the Overall 2005 Sustainable Cities Award for a council and an individual, prizes will also be given in the following categories:

- Landcom Overall Community Award
- Overall Council Award
- Department of Commerce - Metropolitan Schools Award
- Ashbins Australia - Community Facilities and Services Award
- Alcoa Rolled Products - Western Sydney Individual/Group Community Action Award
- Beverage Industry Environment Council - Waste Minimisation Award
- NSW Heritage Office Award - Best Heritage Management by a Metro Council
- NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service - Urban Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Renewal Award
- Keep Australia Beautiful - Environmental Education Award
- Raine and Horne - Young Legends Award

**The Closing Date for Entries in Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW) 2005 Sustainable Cities Awards (formerly known as Metro Pride Awards) is 21 July 2005.**

**For further information on how to enter the awards contact Peter McLean, Program Manager, Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW) 02 9633 3380, m 0416 227 158 or contact [www.kabnsw.org.au](http://www.kabnsw.org.au)**

**For further media information please contact Matthew Taylor, CEO Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW) 02 9633 3380, m 0409 463 227**

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