



MEDIA RELEASE
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**The Magnetic Island Solar Suburb earns recognition at the
Australian Sustainable Cities Awards 2008**

The Magnetic Island Solar Suburb has won the Community Action Award at the Keep Australia Beautiful, Australian Sustainable Cities Awards, held in Sydney last night.

Situated within the ecologically sensitive Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA), the Magnetic Island Solar Suburb initiative forms a major part of the overall *Townsville: Queensland Solar City* project, which is part of the Australian Government's Solar Cities program.

According to the Australian Sustainable Cities Judge, Sean Rooney, who is also Director of the CSIRO Sustainable Communities Initiative, "The Magnetic Island project will trial a range of initiatives that aim to reduce wasteful energy usage, increase solar energy usage and cut greenhouse gas emissions by about 50,000 tonnes.

"It is great to see the community at all levels come together to reduce 'peak demand' electricity usage as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save customers money and defer network investment.

"Another excellent initiative is the Smart Lifestyle Centre. Formerly the Horseshoe Bay Sport and Recreation Club, it was redeveloped by Ergon Energy with support of council, into a sustainability showcase that provides interactive learning on how solar power works, supported with energy efficiency information." Rooney said.

The awards were attended by The Hon Bruce Billson MP, Shadow Minister for Sustainable Development and Cities, who said:

"At a time when climate change, water conservation and waste reduction issues provide many challenges to local councils and communities, these awards help recognise and promote best practice case studies that can assist other urban communities to become more sustainable."

Also attending the awards dinner was Keep Australia Beautiful Ambassador, Miss Universe Australia 2008, Laura Dundovic. "Congratulations to all of the participants for working hard to ensure the long term sustainability of their local community."

The Australian Sustainable Cities Awards recognise efforts by residents, community groups, businesses and government agencies to protect and enhance their local environment to ensure its long term sustainability at all levels.

The program is sponsored by the Hungry Jack's 'Bag It & Bin It' program and is part of the Keep Australia Beautiful 'Australian Sustainable Communities' Awards, which also includes the Australian Tidy Towns and Australian Clean Beaches Awards.

Further information about the 'Australian Sustainable Communities' Awards can be found at www.kab.org.au

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Keep Australia Beautiful Australian Sustainable Cities Award Recipients 2008

Category	Winner	Sponsor
OVERALL WINNER	Frankston City Council, VIC	Hungry Jack's® 'Bag it and Bin it'
Runner Up	City of Salisbury, SA	
Highly Commended	City of Sydney, NSW	
COMMUNITY ACTION	Magnetic Island Solar Suburb, QLD	Auburn Council
Highly Commended	City of Sydney, NSW	
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	Devonport City Council, TAS	
Highly Commended	City of Sydney, NSW	
ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION	City of Gosnells, WA	
Highly Commended	TravelSmart Belconnen, ACT	
WATER CONSERVATION	City of Salisbury, SA	Grundfos Pumps
Highly Commended	Frankston City Council, VIC	
ENERGY INNOVATION	Alice Solar City, NT	
LITTER PREVENTION	City of Sydney, NSW	City of Sydney
RESOURCE RECOVERY	Frankston City Council, VIC	'Do the Right Thing' program of the Packaging Stewardship Forum
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP	TravelSmart Belconnen, ACT	ICTC Society
Highly Commended	Frankston City Council, VIC	
PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT	City of Salisbury, SA	
Highly Commended	City of Sydney, NSW	
YOUNG LEGENDS	Carrum Downs Secondary College, Frankston, VIC	
Highly Commended Individual	Christina Garnaut-Jager, Salisbury Downs Primary School, Salisbury, SA	
DAME PHYLLIS FROST AWARD		
Winning Individual	Leon Costermans, Frankston, VIC	
Winning Organisation	City of Sydney, NSW	

Full details for each entrant in the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards 2008 can be found at www.kab.org.au/sustainablecities