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Rockingham cleans up State beach award

Portfolio: Environment

Environment Minister Donna Faragher today announced Rockingham as Western Australia's cleanest beach for 2010.

The Clean Beach Awards, organised by Keep Australia Beautiful WA and Surf Life Saving WA, aimed to encourage the care, protection and management of WA's coastal regions.

Mrs Faragher said Rockingham Beach's victory was testament to the City of Rockingham's commitment to making it user friendly, while also protecting the environment.

She said Rockingham Beach was a focal point for locals and tourists and a key feature of the natural environment.

"The infrastructure and facilities, such as the dive trails, offer opportunities for interaction with nature as well as the area's recent naval history," the Minister said.

"Rockingham Beach also has a sound resource management strategy that has seen the installation of large underground tanks to filter storm water and remove pollutants before the water can drain into the ocean.

"In addition to this, rehabilitation works have been integrated into the dune system to protect the foreshore against the heavy storm surges that occur in winter."

As well as winning the overall title, Rockingham Beach also took out the awards for Resource Management and Friendly Beach.

Port Hedland's Pretty Pool and Cemetery beaches picked up the Community Action award for the efforts of local business and residents to reduce litter and for a turtle monitoring program.

Gnaraloo Station, north of Carnarvon, earned the Environment Protection award for its efforts in looking after Gnaraloo Beach and its flora and fauna, including loggerhead and green turtles.

The Litter Prevention award went to Bill's Bay, a beach on the shores of Ningaloo Marine Park.

Rockingham Beach will represent WA in the 2011 national Clean Beaches Awards to be held in Perth in March next year.

Keep Australia Beautiful in WA is supported by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Minister's office - 9213 7250