



MONDAY NOVEMBER 1ST, 2010

Fantastic news for ACT's Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water.

It has won two awards ... the 'Dame Phyllis Frost' Litter Prevention Award and also the Young Legends Award ... at the 2010 Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards.

Ann Lyons Wright Senior Manager Sustainability Program DECCEW representing the ACT community received the awards at a special presentation ceremony today in the presence of Federal Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Tony Burke.

Sean Rooney – who judged the awards – said the two projects were both remarkable and highlighted the fantastic work being done to keep cities sustainable as pressure on the environment continues to grow.

The ACT's Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water has won two awards - the 'Dame Phyllis Frost' Litter Prevention Award and also the Young Legends Award - at the 2010 Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards.

Representatives from the ACT's Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water received the awards at a special presentation ceremony in the presence of Federal Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities Tony Burke.

The awards were presented in Sydney on Monday November 1st at a ceremony hosted by last year's winner the City of Canada Bay

Sean Rooney – who judged the awards – said the projects were both remarkable and highlighted the fantastic work being done to keep cities sustainable as pressure on the environment continues to grow.

Sean Rooney said, “The Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water has worked efficiently and effectively to address the issue of litter management and it has also been highly pro-active in involving children in sustainability initiatives. It is a very worthy winner of the two awards.”

Tropfest is Australia’s most popular short film festival and Canberra’s Tropfest screening is the second largest hosting site in the country – attracting a crowd of over 23,500 people. The ACT Government hosted this event for the first time in 2010 and it provided an opportunity to raise awareness of Green Power and to promote recycling.

At the event no public waste collection bins were used. Instead the public were directed to take their rubbish to a centrally located waste sorting site. The area consisted of waste volunteers who helped guide the public to sort their own waste into colour coded waste buckets which were then transferred by the volunteers into larger storage bins. The initiative resulted in more than one tonne of total event waste being redirected to composting or recycling depots, rather than landfill.

Sean Rooney said, “The ACT Government helps schools to save energy and water, improve waste management, protect biodiversity and cut greenhouse gas emissions through the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative ACT (AuSSI-ACT). AuSSI-ACT provides advice and assistance to ACT government and non government schools participating in the program.”

“There are a total of 114 ACTSmart schools in the ACT of a total of 127 schools in Canberra. Positive results have been achieved through the AuSSI program with audit figures showing favourable outcomes. For example: in terms of waste, nine accredited waste wise schools showed enthusiastic students assisting in reducing waste sent to landfill. Collectively, these schools used to send 282,000 litres of waste to landfill. They now send 119,000 litres of waste to landfill – a total reduction of 58%.”

In terms of water, a total of 22 schools have been accredited as ACTSmart water-wise schools. In total, these schools have reduced water consumption by 30,306 kilolitres or reduced costs by \$61,218 per annum (approx 37%).

The Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water has also:

- Launched the ACTSmart Business and Office programs that have helped the commercial and industrial sector to improve its waste management. The program assists businesses in putting more efficient recycling and waste management into action. To date more than 150 organisations have signed up and 25 have received accreditation.
- Launched the ToiletSmart program that assists ACT residential property owners replace single flush toilets with four-star water efficient 4.5/3 litres dual flush toilets.

- During Seniors Week 2010, DECCEW ran a special promotion advising senior citizens of the help available to make their homes more water efficient through the ToiletSmart program. As a result of the promotion, 165 visits were booked in to replace toilets for senior citizens.

Keep Australia Beautiful Executive Officer Scott Lyall said, “Sustainability is a critical issue for all cities as the world becomes more and more urbanised. We all know there are massive pressures on our cities. Cities make up just 2% of the earth’s surface but now actually account for 80% of greenhouse gas emissions.”

A range of top organisations is supporting the Keep Australia Beautiful Australian Sustainable Cities Awards including Packaging Stewardship Forum; Sinclair Knight Merz; Grundfos Pumps, and ToysRUs. The ‘Dame Phyllis Frost’ Litter Prevention category was presented by Adrian Beresford-Wylie, Chief Executive, Australian Local Government Association. The Young Legends category was presented by Naomi Miller from ToysRUs

**Media enquiries to: Ross Woodward or Homira Samadi on 03 9769 6488
Sean Rooney Scott Lyall and DECCEW representatives are available for media
interviews**

About the Supporters

The Australian Sustainable Cities Awards are sponsored by:

'Do the Right Thing' Program of the Packaging Stewardship Forum, Australian Food and Grocery Council

The Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council, works with partners to deliver industry recycling, litter reduction and education programs on behalf of its members, who consist of Australia's major beverage companies and their packaging suppliers. The Forum's highly successful *Do the Right Thing* anti-litter campaign has proven to be a strong litter prevention message, with more than 80% of people recognising that *Do the Right Thing* means put your waste in the bin and more than 300 towns and cities around Australia taking the *Do the Right Thing* message to their communities
Contact: Jenny Pickles 0418 558 311

Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM)

SKM is a leading engineering, sciences and project delivery firm. Its purpose is to deliver a positive and enduring impact on the world. They work in close partnership with key clients in the public and private sectors, providing independent technical, strategic and commercial advice to deliver a wide range of projects globally.

Contact: Jessica Hyams, 03 9248 3036

Grundfos Pumps

As a world leading pump and pumping systems manufacturer, Grundfos Pumps has joined with Keep Australia Beautiful to help all Australians achieve improvements in water conservation.

Contact Anna Thyssen, 08 8461 4611

ToysRUs

A leading retailer of toys and educational items for young Australians. They recognise the need to reduce their environmental footprint and are taking steps to reduce plastic bag usage by customers. They have chosen to partner with the Young Legends category of the Sustainable Cities Awards to help acknowledge the environmental achievements of young Australians and to use these case studies as an inspiration to others.

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