



MEDIA RELEASE – Monday 8th August 2011

The ACT gets ready to impress as the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards judge visits this week

The Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) Sustainable Skills Training Hub representatives are eagerly anticipating the arrival of the Keep Australia Beautiful national Sustainable Cities judge, Dick Olesinski, this week as it vies to become the 2011 winner of the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards.

As part of his judging visit, Mr Olesinski, will visit the CIT Sustainable Skills Training Hub in Bruce on Wednesday 10th August to meet the team behind the sustainable building project which was announced the ACT territory winner and national finalist on the 14th July. The team includes Ivan Radic who manages the building for CIT and Gavin Murphy from Project Coordination who managed the construction of the building.

The remarkable Training Hub has, among its many innovative features, solar power generating and hot water systems, natural gas fuel cell power generation, geo-thermal heat exchangers for internal temperature control and digitally-controlled lighting systems for efficient internal lighting.

Mr Olesinski will evaluate the initiative against the national awards criteria which encompasses environmental innovation and protection, resource recovery and waste management, water conservation and energy innovation, community action and partnerships, litter prevention, sustainable buildings and gardens, the protection of heritage and culture and a young legends category.

The CIT Sustainable Skills Training Hub is typical of the finalists in the Sustainable Cities Awards, who all provide outstanding examples of how cities around the nation are implementing practical projects that help local communities achieve an efficient and sustainable future.

According to Mr Olesinski the CIT Sustainable Skills Training Hub offers a state of the art example for other industry leaders to follow.

"I am very much looking forward to hearing more about this exciting development which has obviously taken a very collaborative approach to implementing sustainable initiatives that will provide long-term skills, training and knowledge, whilst also setting a benchmark for other industry players to learn from and strive towards," he said.

Following his national tour to each of the state and territory finalists, Mr Olesinski will then face the tough task of deciding who will be crowned the national winner, taking over the title from The City of Stirling in WA. This will be announced at the 2011 Sustainable Cities Awards Ceremony, to be held in Perth on the 21st of November.

Other finalists already announced include the City of Subiaco in WA, Yarra City Council in VIC, Kogarah City Council in NSW and the City of Burnie in Tasmania, whilst further state and territory finalists will be announced over the coming weeks.

The Keep Australia Beautiful Australian Sustainable Cities Awards are sponsored by Toys R Us, Tennant and Replas Recycled Plastic Products.

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PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

What: National Judge on-site with CIT Sustainable Skills Training Hub representatives
When: 10:00am – Wednesday 10th August 2011
Where: CIT Bruce Campus, Eastaugh Place, Bruce, ACT

For further information about the judge's visit, or photo opportunities, please contact:

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

About the Australian Sustainable Communities Awards

Keep Australia Beautiful seeks to lead, challenge and inspire all Australians to strive for a sustainable and litter free environment. It does this through research, communications programs and awards programs.

Its national awards are known as the Australian Sustainable Communities Awards which consist of the Tidy Towns, Sustainable Cities and Clean Beaches Awards. Each awards program commences with state and territory awards and culminates in a national Grand Final event.

The Sustainable Cities Awards are open to metropolitan communities. Cities contribute up to 80% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

About the judge – Richard (Dick) Olesinski

With 17 years under his belt as the Australian Tidy Towns Judge, it's fair to say that this man is a seriously passionate and committed individual. In 2011, Dick will add the role of national judge for the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards to his repertoire as well.

Dick conducts an environmental management support consultancy in South Australia for business, industry, community groups and government agencies. He also consults to the retail industry to initiate environment improvement policies, as well as to KESAB (Keep South Australia Beautiful) and Natural Resource Management boards in Adelaide.

His projects include implementing environmental initiatives for the construction industry together with coordinating business, industry and community environmental education programs.

Dick is the Keep Australia Beautiful National Association's longest serving Awards Judge.