



MONDAY NOVEMBER 1ST, 2010

Fantastic news for Sydney's Hornsby Shire Council.

It has won the Resource Recovery and Waste Management Award at the 2010 national Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards.

Cr Nick Berman, Mayor, and the team from Hornsby Shire Council received the award at a 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 project was remarkable and highlighted the fantastic work being done to keep cities sustainable as pressure on the environment continues to grow.

The Hornsby Shire Council in Sydney has won the Resources Recovery and Waste Management Award at the 2010 national Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards.

Representatives from the Hornsby Shire Council received the award at a presentation ceremony in the presence of Federal Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, The Hon Tony Burke MP.

The award was presented at an event hosted by last year's winner, City of Canada Bay, on Monday November 1st.

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

Sean Rooney said “The Hornsby Shire Council has an impressive and comprehensive approach to resource recovery and waste management in the Shire. The Council is working hard to address this important issue and is being very proactive in its approach and the range of programs it has initiated.”

The following programs/projects were noted for their effectiveness:

- Community workshops – over 250 Hornsby residents have participated in GreenHome workshops and the GreenStyle program in 2010 including education in waste management such as recycling, composting and waste avoidance.
- Waste Education Van & Schools Education Program – encouragement of sustainability initiatives through the Hornsby Environment Network for Schools. This program also equips teachers to implement sustainability principles into their schools’ practices and curriculum.
- Sixty five teachers have attended from thirty four schools since it began in 2007. This represents almost two thirds of the Shire’s schools.
- School ‘waste watchers’ program (ongoing for 8 years) and with over 300 students at 24 different schools participating in 2010.
- E-waste weekend drop off collection for recycling for 2010 collected approximately 75 tonnes and E-waste weekday drop off collections collected approx 100 tonnes between March - August 2010.
- Battery collection for 2009 - approximately 196 kg. Collections for 2010 Jan – June are approx 363 kg.
- Business Energy Savings Program & Resource Recovery Workshop over 150 businesses have participated in Council run programs.
- Successful programs such as: e-waste collection, battery collection, fridge buy-back, drum muster, chemical collection, clothing exchange, and the ‘Return to Glory’ recycled art competition and exhibition
- Face-to-face – attendance at public events, through displays and stalls e.g. the Country and Garden Festival, Australia Day at Hornsby Mall, unit block expos, shopping centres, One World Festival and Bushland Shire Festivals.

The Council has developed ‘Hornsby Shire 2020: A Framework for a Sustainable Future’ (the ‘Framework’). The Framework encompasses all of the Council’s strategies and directions for achieving a sustainable Hornsby Shire into one overall document. It covers many different areas the Council is working on including biodiversity, air, water and soil quality, waste management, energy conservation, businesses strategies and issues of heritage and culture.

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.”

“The Council’s approach to sustainability has been comprehensive and multi-pronged. It has achieved so much including a 29% reduction of corporate CO2 emissions from 1995/96 asset levels; over 5,700 native plants given away to residents... the plants were propagated by staff and volunteers at a nursery open day; over 1,500 community members engaged in sustainability activities; running workshops on worm farming, composting and green cleaning and operating chipping days for green waste disposal.”

Hornsby Shire Council has also:

- Conducted summer recreational water quality monitoring.
- Introduced a sustainable water strategy which has already resulted in an 18% reduction.
- Installed a 15kwh, 25m high wind turbine in Berowra and solar panels to generate 30% of electricity for the new rural fire station. The Council says the wind turbine will play an important role in educating the community about alternative energy sources.
- Downsized Council vehicles from 6 cylinders to 4 cylinders and installed bicycle racks at the Council’s buildings to encourage cycling.
- Been operating a Clothing Exchange where participants can bring up to six new, lightly worn items of clothing or accessories to swap and also Second Hand Saturdays where residents are encouraged to reuse and recycle household items.
- Conserved and maintained a number of historic gardens and parks including Fagan Park, Crosslands Reserve and Lillian Fraser Gardens.
- Undertaken bushland and riparian restoration works in endangered ecological communities and wetlands and celebrated Hornsby Bushcare’s 20 years of regenerating bushland. There are currently 850 Hornsby Bushcare volunteers.

Sean Rooney said, “The power of this project is that everyone’s a winner. Hornsby Shire Council is a state and now a national category winner, residents benefit from the actions taken and the future benefits. At a local level this project has made a mammoth difference for future generations. The Council has taken real action. It is a very impressive contender.”

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. Hornsby Shire Council received their category award from Jenny Pickles, General Manager, 'Do the Right Thing' Program of the Packaging Stewardship Forum, Australian Food and Grocery Council.

**Media enquiries to: Ross Woodward or Homira Samadi on 03 9769 6488
Sean Rooney Scott Lyall and Hornsby Shire Council 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.

Contact Katarina Wos or Kristen Pelletier, 02 9794 8999