



## **MEDIA RELEASE – Monday 29 August 2011**

### **NSW gets ready to impress as the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards judge visits this week**

The Kogarah City Council representatives are eagerly anticipating the arrival of the Keep Australia Beautiful national Sustainable Cities judge, Dick Olesinski, tomorrow as it vies to become the 2011 winner of the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards.

As part of his judging tour, Mr Olesinski will visit a number of the key environmental projects and initiatives in Kogarah on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August that earned the city the New South Wales state winner's title for 2011.

Specific projects Mr Olesinski will visit include the Beverley Park water reclamation plant and irrigation initiatives; Kogarah Town Square's sustainability features; Council's solar works depot; Carlton Industrial Stormwater Harvesting Plant; Carss Park Community Gardens and Eco-shed and Moore Reserve Wetlands.

Mr Olesinski will evaluate these initiatives 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, the protection of heritage and culture and a young legends category.

Kogarah City Council's efforts are 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, Kogarah City Council's "125 years of history deserves 125 years of future" project details an inclusive approach to creating and maintaining a sustainable future for other council's to strive towards.

"I am very much looking forward to hearing more about this exciting program which has obviously taken an integrated approach to implementing sustainable initiatives. Kogarah City Council's adoption of an Environmental Sustainability Delivery (ESD) Plan to help guide their decisions demonstrates the council's aim to represent the aspirations of the community including the people that live, work and visit the city," 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 21<sup>st</sup> of November.

Other finalists already announced include the City of Subiaco in WA, Yarra City Council in VIC, City of Charles Sturt in SA, the CIT Sustainable Skills Training Hub in Bruce ACT and City of Burnie in Tasmania.

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

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#### **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

**What: National Judge visit on site with Kogarah City Council representatives**

**When: Approximately 3:00pm – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

**Where: Moore Reserve Wetlands, 17 West Crescent, Hurstville Grove (Enter via West Crescent, through Seymour Reserve)**



**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 and Sustainable Cities 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.