

DARWIN CITY COUNCIL, Northern Territory

Winner of:

Heritage and Culture

The Heritage and Culture Award recognize communities, which proudly preserve and value cultural history.

This year the award is given to the Darwin City Council for demonstrating leadership and collaboration in working with the local Larrakia Rangers (traditional owners) in protecting and managing a site of significant cultural and natural heritage. Through the 'Protecting the Dunes of Mindil Beach Project,' the Council, Larrakia Rangers and other community groups, work together to protect and restore the dunes of Mindil Beach, a place of cultural significance and home to a number of Indigenous burial sites. Initiatives for re-vegetation, re-fencing and new beach access points have mitigated erosion, which has threatened to expose known burial locations. The Larrakia Rangers are also involved in other natural resource management projects applying traditional knowledge and land management practices to manage local environmental issues in effective and culturally appropriate ways.

The Darwin City Council is also undertaking major activities to protect and conserve the Gardens Road Cemetery. The three-year program includes drainage, fencing, records audit, memorial restoration, identification of unmarked graves, landscaping and signage. A similar program is also underway at Darwin's Pioneer Cemetery.