



MONDAY 1ST NOVEMBER, 2010

Fantastic news for Darwin City Council.

It has won the Heritage and Culture Award at the 2010 Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards.

Pamela Robinson Manager, Climate Change and Environment representing Darwin City Council received the award 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 project was remarkable and highlighted the fantastic work being done to keep cities sustainable as pressure on the environment continues to grow.

The Darwin City Council in Northern Territory has won the Heritage and Culture Award at the 2010 Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards.

Representatives from the Darwin City Council received the award at a special presentation ceremony in the presence of Federal Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Tony Burke.

The award was in Sydney, hosted by last years winner the City of Canada Bay

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 Darwin City Council is working in partnership with many people and groups in the area to maintain the culture and heritage of the area. It has demonstrated leadership and collaboration in working with the local Larrakia Rangers (traditional owners) in protecting and managing a site of significant cultural and natural heritage at Mindil Beach.”

The dunes of Mindil Beach are a place of cultural significance to the local traditional owners and are home to a number of Indigenous burial sites. The site is registered with the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority. The “Protecting the Dunes of Mindil Beach” project sees the Council, Larrakia Rangers and other community groups working together to protect and restore the site as erosion has threatened to expose known locations of human burial remains.

Sean Rooney added, “Through this project revegetation, re-fencing and new beach access points have mitigated immediate threats. Furthermore, the Larrakia Rangers are 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.”

“In addition, the Darwin City Council is also undertaking major activities to protect and conserve one of the most important heritage listed sites in Darwin – the Gardens Road Cemetery. The Council is in the second year of a three year program of works at the cemetery including drainage, fencing, records audit, memorial restoration, identification of unmarked graves, landscaping and signage. A similar program is also underway at Darwin’s Pioneer Cemetery.”

Darwin City Council has also:

- Established the first Renewable Energy Facility in Tropical Australia at the Council’s Shoal Bay Waste Disposal Site. The Facility has been developed specifically to reduce landfill greenhouse emissions. The Darwin City Council and Land Management Services project reduces landfill greenhouse emissions by 97%.
- An annual Pre-Cyclone Season Clean-Up takes place around the Darwin municipality. The Clean-Up assists Darwin residents to clean up their yards in preparation for the cyclone season. All recyclable material was diverted and recycled by the Darwin Resource Recovery Centre.
- The Council has been working on the revitalisation of the Darwin City Centre including promoting greater pedestrian traffic - which increases customers for local traders - plus creating a platform to encourage businesses to offer diverse shopping and dining experiences; creating streets and public spaces capable of staging important cultural and civic events; defining the unique tropical character of the city and promoting Darwin as a walk-able city; building better less cluttered connections whilst establishing a framework for private sector investment in street level retail and promoting a safe environment for people.

- Darwin City Council operates a “hands on” approach and participates in a diverse range of community events throughout the year – such as World Environment Day, the NT Tropical Gardens and Sustainable Living Fair and Clean Up Australia Day.
- It operates special school tours to Shoal Bay Landfill. Students are taken through all the facets of the Shoal Bay Waste Disposal Site. Visitors leave with a strong understanding of the power of the philosophy behind Reduce/Reuse/Recycle as not just a slogan but as a daily practical environmental, social and economic priority of Darwin City Council’s commitment to being a sustainable city.
- The Council is undertaking the ‘Gardens Road Cemetery’ project where it is in the process of preserving and enhancing the heritage values associated with the cemetery. Now in the second year of a three year project, work includes drainage, fencing, records audit, memorial restoration, identification of unmarked graves, landscaping and signage.

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 Heritage and Culture category was presented by Monica Richter, Sustainable Cities Index, Australian Conservation Foundation

**Media enquiries to: Ross Woodward or Homira Samadi on 03 9769 6488
Sean Rooney, Scott Lyall and Darwin City 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