



## **MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

**Queensland's Redland City Council is a strong contender to carry off top honours in the massive 2010 Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards.**

**As pressures continue on all cities (cities now make up 2% of the earth's surface and produce 80% of the world's emissions\*) Redland City Council is the Queensland finalist in the prestigious awards.**

**Keep Australia Beautiful's National Sustainable Cities judge, Sean Rooney, will fly to Queensland on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August to meet representatives and discuss their remarkable project.**

**Redland City Council is working tirelessly to manage and maintain a sustainable future in one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. Projects include Habitat Protection Programs, a unique environmental education centre called IndigiScapes and work on the creation of major green corridors and recreation pathways across the Redland area.**

Queensland's Redland City Council is a strong contender to win top honours in the massive 2010 Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards.

The awards recognise cities around the nation making a big difference to our pressurised environment.

Keep Australia Beautiful's Sustainable Cities Awards judge, Sean Rooney, will fly into Queensland on Wednesday August 25th to closely inspect Redland City Council's project before a final decision is made about whether Redland City Council will win the national honour.

Redland City Council has already highlighted it is deeply concerned about protecting its precious environment and creating a sustainable city in one of the fastest growing regions in Australia.

The Council is very proud of its sustainability policies which include habitat protection programs, wildlife programs and extensive work with local children, the Traditional Owners and environment and community groups.

Keep Australia Beautiful Executive Officer Scott Lyall said, “Redland City Council is remarkable. 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.”

“These Awards are very prestigious and Redland City Council is already the Queensland winner. They may now carry off the top honour too – and Sean’s visit is all about getting an absolutely in-depth understanding of how Redland City Council has pulled off such remarkable results.”

“The Council’s projects are wide ranging. For instance, Redland City Council is host to a unique education centre called IndigiScapes. The centre is a hub of environmental resources for the local community. There are interpretive walks, native landscaped gardens, a café and a native nursery. Staff from the Centre have worked with many local schools in changing their gardens to local native plants and have even held a workshop for all local groundsmen to make them aware of ‘school suitable’ local plants. The Centre is a popular place for people to visit and relax ... which makes is an ideal place for creating community partnerships.”

Redland City Council has formed partnerships with around 850 landholders through its Habitat Protection Programs. The programs provided by Redland City Council include “Your Backyard Garden Program” (that promotes native landscaping, bushland friendly practices and creation of wildlife habitat); the “Rural Support Program” (that assists private landholders in the long-term management of their property); the “Land for Wildlife Program” (encouraging and assisting private landholders on acreage to manager their land to provide habitat for wildlife) and the “Koala Conservation Agreement Program” (a unique program specifically targeted at protecting and reinstating koala habitat on private land).

Redland City Council has also:

- Provided a number of wildlife programs including Koala Watch where people can provide details of their sightings of koalas via the web or by calling IndigiScapes; the Wildlife School Programs where Redland City Council wildlife officers run programs in schools (with children of all ages) to help them appreciate and understand koalas and to get them involved in helping to monitor the koalas and also Redland’s 24 Hour Wildlife Rescue where the Council coordinates a 24 hour wildlife rescue service. This has been operating for 12 years and is run by dedicated wildlife volunteers.
- Committed to rehabilitating waterways and catchment areas. Specific areas of focus include aquatic weed control, declared invasive weed control, foreshore restoration, Coolnwynpin Creek Catchment restoration, Hilliard’s Creek Catchment restoration and Native Dog Creek Catchment restoration.
- Arranged school excursions to the Redland Bay Waste Transfer Station (including RecycleWorld), Birkdale Waste Transfer Station and closed landfill at Judy Holt Park that allow students a broader understanding of waste minimisation.
- Worked on the development of new education programs for schools and children including “Where does rubbish belong?”; “Legless Litter” where students will discuss litter and its impact on animals and the environment and “Recycling Rocks!” where students investigate the recycling process and waste transfer stations.

Sean Rooney – who is the Sustainability Program Manager at Sinclair Knight Merz (a leading international engineering, sciences and project management firm) and is also an Adjunct Associate Professor at Griffith University in Queensland – said, “A huge range of massive reports all point to one place. The cities we need for the future have to be sustainable. The twenty-first century is already a century of cities. This big awards program from Keep Australia Beautiful is simply designed to recognise huge efforts from people, community groups, businesses and government agencies that are doing something hugely meaningful about sustainability.”

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.

Once this final visit takes place to Redland City Council, key personnel will fly to Sydney for the prestigious National Awards ceremony to be held on November 1<sup>st</sup>. All states and territories will be competing for the national title.

Sean Rooney said, “The power of this project is that everyone’s a winner. Redland City Council is a state 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.”

“Redland City Council has put countless hours into activity. They can see the big picture. Generations ahead of us deserve nothing less than sustainable cities and as the debate rages about what kind of Australia we all want for the future, we all know that we simply have to reduce the enormous environmental pressures being placed on our cities.”

“Sustainability is about everything from good air quality, dealing with waste, food and water supplies, housing issues, transport issues and making sure vulnerable people don’t fall through the cracks. It’s about safety, jobs and the environment.”

“These Awards all focus on saluting heroes. People who are doing something to facilitate change. This is a great project, a state winner and a very impressive contender. We are always hearing stories about how liveable Australia’s cities are. We’ve got to be hearing more about why all our cities should be sustainable.”

**Media enquiries to: Ross Woodward or Homira Samadi on 03 9769 6488  
Sean Rooney and Scott Lyall are available for media interviews**

\* Daily Telegraph – 14.12.09

Photo opportunity of the National Judge with QLD finalist:  
9.30am, IndigiScapes, 17 Runnymede Road, Capalaba, QLD

## EXTRA BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

### **About the Judge - Sean Rooney:**

Sean Rooney is a thought and practice leader working at the forefront of the 'cross-sector partnering' and 'sustainability' agendas in Australia.

Currently the Sustainability Program Manager at leading international engineering, sciences and project management firm, Sinclair Knight Merz, Sean is also an Adjunct Associate Professor at Griffith Business School (QLD), focusing on sustainability and organisational strategy. Sean's previous roles include Founder and Director of CSIRO's Sustainable Communities Initiative and a faculty member of Cambridge University's World Bank Sustainable Development Leadership Program.

In addition, Sean regularly contributes articles to national publications and is frequently invited to speak at both domestic and international conferences. Sean is also an active participant in several influential bodies supporting debate and action regarding sustainability issues in Australia.

In recognition of his expertise and impact in sustainability thought and practice leadership Sean was awarded a 2007 CSIRO Achievement Award and was a recipient in 2006 of a Future Summit Leadership Award for leadership in the sustainable development domain in Australia.

### **About the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards:**

The Australian Sustainable Cities Awards recognise efforts by residents, community groups, businesses and government agencies to protect and enhance their local urban environment to ensure its long term sustainability at all levels.

The program is part of the Keep Australia Beautiful 'Australian Sustainable Communities' Awards, which also includes the Australian Tidy Towns and Australian Clean Beaches Awards. The Australian Sustainable Cities Awards are sponsored by the Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council, Grundfos Pumps, Sinclair Knight Merz and ToysRUs.

## 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