



MONDAY NOVEMBER 1ST, 2010

Fantastic news for Queensland's Redland City Council.

It has won the Community Action and Partnerships Award at the national 2010 Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards.

Mayor of Redland City Council Cr Melva Hobson, received the award at a special presentation ceremony today in the presence of Federal Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, The Hon Tony Burke MP.

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.

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The award was presented in Sydney on Monday November 1st at a ceremony hosted by last years winner 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 “Redland City Council has demonstrated leadership and achievement in three specific programs that brought together a mix of partners from the Council, local landholders, community groups and residents, to address local sustainability issues. The Council has been innovative in its approach and has worked collaboratively on a number of projects.”

The projects are:

- The IndigiScapes environmental education centre - the centre is a hub of environmental resources for the local community and a popular place for people to visit and relax.
- The Centre boasts interpretive walks, native landscaped gardens, a cafe, native nursery and many related environmentally focused events. One of the main aims of IndigiScapes is to create advocacy in the community through effective engagement and education opportunities.
- Habitat Protection Programs - to date approximately 850 landholders have formed partnerships with Council through participating in Habitat Protection Programs and close to 1746Ha is under agreement. The programs provided by Redland City Council include: Your Backyard
- Garden Program; Rural Support Program; Land for Wildlife Program; Waterway Extension Program; Koala Conservation Agreement Program; Voluntary Conservation Agreement Program.
- Wildlife Programs – The Council provides a number of programs and supports many organisations in raising community awareness of koalas.
- Some of the programs that are provided by the Redland City Council in relation to wildlife include: Redlands 24 hour Wildlife Rescue service; Koala Watch; and the Wildlife Schools Program.

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.”

Redland City Council has also:

- 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.

Scott Lyall added, “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.”

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 Community Action and Partnerships award was presented by Malcolm Thompson, Deputy Secretary, Federal Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

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