



MONDAY NOVEMBER 1ST, 2010

Fantastic news for South Australia's City of Onkaparinga.

It has won the Water Conservation Award at the 2010 Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards.

Jeffrey Tate, Chief Executive Officer, City of Onkaparinga 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 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, “Water is obviously a very precious resource. The City of Onkaparinga is attacking the issue of water conservation on many different levels. It is working hard on sustainability issues in the area ... for present and future residents and businesses.”

The City of Onkaparinga is recognised for its strategic and innovative approach to managing water resources in the area. Key elements of the approach include: “Water Proofing the South”... a major integrated water resource management project initiated by the City of Onkaparinga. The project results in water being better managed and re-used for agriculture, viticulture and urban applications.

This is achieved through an integrated system of Managed Aquifer Recovery schemes, urban wetlands, engineering infrastructure and stormwater harvesting across the city. Hart Road Wetland is a collaboration between the Stormwater Management Authority, Department of Environment and the developers of the Sunday and Bayswood estates.

The wetland forms part of the Aldinga Drainage Scheme, providing flood retention and controlled discharge into the Aldinga Scrub, reinstating important natural environmental surface flows and near surface flows to the perched aquifer and scrub. The wetland provides important habitat for a range of fauna species known to frequent the area, and provides a habitat island, important ephemeral wetland and aquatic plant zones.

Sean Rooney said, “The City of Onkaparinga’s projects are extensive and comprehensive. It is looking at a wide range of issues and initiatives that will benefit the area now and into the future. For instance, the City of Onkaparinga works extensively with local schools and students in a number of areas.”

“The “Creating Places – Parks and Reserves” program works with upper primary school and high school students in the design and development of their local reserves and parks and with younger children in the design of public art works. The students become highly engaged and they learn about the need to consider not only what they would like to see, but also design elements such as water conservation, public safety, disability access and how the space will be used by different age groups.”

“The Waste Nott Recycling Store in Hackham West was established to divert business waste (off cuts and end of runs) to sell on as craft material. The store is supported by volunteers. The opening hours are extending and the role of the store is being reviewed for possible social enterprise activities.”

“The City chips 100% of all its tree prunings to produce mulch which is returned to the local parks and gardens. It operates a 3 bin kerbside collection system of 140 litre waste collected weekly, a 240 litre recycling pick up fortnightly and a monthly green waste collection. Schools and community organisations are also supplied with recycling and green organics kerbside bins.”

The City of Onkaparinga has also:

- Implemented many water saving initiatives including reducing irrigated turf area, increasing the use of drip and subsurface irrigation and eliminating daylight watering.
- Over the past decade, substantially reduced the amount of water it uses for irrigation. (Around 85% of the water that is used by the City of Onkaparinga is used to irrigate local parks and reserves.)
- Is upgrading Christies Creek with wetlands in Brodie Road Reserve and Madiera Drive Reserve, basins in Waverly Way and Woodcroft Drive Reserves, a storage dam within Wilfred Taylor Reserve to store water for summer use and landscape and recreational amenity improvements.
- Launched (in August 2010) the “Sustainable Lifestyles Challenge” that encourages residents to reduce their impact on the environment by making small changes to their homes and daily lives in the areas of energy, food, water, waste, transport, gardening and community involvement.
- Operates a graffiti management project which deals with graffiti removal, partnerships with other groups and prevention programs. As a result the requests for graffiti removal have decreased by 17% in the first quarter of this year compared to the same time last year.

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 Water Conservation category was presented by Tony Kersten from Grundfos Pumps.

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