



## **MEDIA RELEASE – 7th September 2011**

### **Yarra City Council showcases green credentials for the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards judge**

The Yarra City Council today showcased its green credentials as the Keep Australia Beautiful National Sustainable Cities judge, Dick Olesinski, today visit the community as it vies to become the 2011 winner of the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards.

As part of his judging tour, Mr Olesinski visited a number of the key environmental projects and initiatives within the City of Yarra that earned the city the Victorian state winner's title for 2011.

Specific projects Mr Olesinski visited included the Aboriginal History Walk on Gertrude Street, Victoria Park Oval, Abbotsford Convent, Collingwood Children's Farm, Melbourne Girls College and the Yarra Energy Foundation. This was followed by a boat trip along the river with the Yarra Riverkeeper Association, finishing with a tour of the environmentally sustainable Mountain Goat Brewery.

Mr Olesinski will evaluate local initiatives against the national awards criteria which encompasses environmental innovation and protection, resource recovery and waste management, water conservation and energy innovation, community action and partnerships, litter prevention, the protection of heritage and culture and a young legends category.

The Yarra City Council's efforts are typical of the finalists in the Sustainable Cities Awards, who all provide outstanding examples of how cities around the nation are implementing practical projects that help local communities achieve an efficient and sustainable future.

According to Mr Olesinski, the Yarra City Council's projects aimed at reducing waste, cutting energy consumption and preserving the natural environment provide an inclusive approach to creating and maintaining a sustainable future for other council's to strive towards.

"I had a great day visiting the City of Yarra and it was certainly interesting to hear about their range of sustainable initiatives and programs that engage the community at all levels and help to reduce waste, energy consumption and help protect the local environment," he said.

Following his national tour to each of the state and territory finalists, Mr Olesinski will then face the tough task of deciding who will be crowned the national winner, taking over the title from The City of Stirling in WA. This will be announced at the 2011 Australian Sustainable Cities Awards Ceremony, to be held in Perth on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November.

Other finalists already announced include the City of Subiaco in WA, Kogarah City Council in NSW, Charles Sturt Council in SA, the CIT Sustainable Skills Training Hub in Bruce ACT and City of Burnie in Tasmania.

The Keep Australia Beautiful Australian Sustainable Cities Awards are sponsored by Toys R Us, Replas Recycled Plastic Products and Tennant.

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#### **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

**What:** National Judge with Yarra City Council Mayor, Alison Clarke and representatives  
**When:** 2:00pm - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September  
**Where:** Collingwood Children's Farm (The Farm Cafe), 18 St Heliers St Abbotsford

**For further information about the judge's visit, or photo opportunities, please contact:**  
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## **EDITOR'S NOTES:**

### **About the Australian Sustainable Communities Awards**

Keep Australia Beautiful seeks to lead, challenge and inspire all Australians to strive for a sustainable and litter free environment. It does this through research, communications programs and awards programs.

Its national awards are known as the Australian Sustainable Communities Awards which consist of the Tidy Towns and Sustainable Cities Awards. Each awards program commences with state and territory awards and culminates in a national Grand Final event.

The Sustainable Cities Awards are open to metropolitan communities. Cities contribute up to 80% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

### **About the judge – Richard (Dick) Olesinski**

With 17 years under his belt as the Australian Tidy Towns Judge, it's fair to say that this man is a seriously passionate and committed individual. In 2011, Dick will add the role of national judge for the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards to his repertoire as well.

Dick conducts an environmental management support consultancy in South Australia for business, industry, community groups and government agencies. He also consults to the retail industry to initiate environment improvement policies, as well as to KESAB (Keep South Australia Beautiful) and Natural Resource Management boards in Adelaide.

His projects include implementing environmental initiatives for the construction industry together with coordinating business, industry and community environmental education programs.

Dick is the Keep Australia Beautiful National Association's longest serving Awards Judge.