



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Strict embargo: 2:30pm (WA time) - Monday 21 November 2011**

### **Yarra in VIC wins Environmental Innovation & Protection award at the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards 2011**

Yarra City Council has won the Environmental Innovation & Protection category award at the Keep Australia Beautiful, Australian Sustainable Cities Awards. They also received high commendation in the Heritage & Culture and the Young Legends categories.

The winners were announced at the national awards ceremony hosted by the 2010 national winner, The City of Stirling in WA, this afternoon.

#### **According to the Australian Sustainable Cities Judge, Dick Olesinski:**

“Yarra City Council’s approach to sustainability combines planning, community engagement, education, comprehensive programs and hands-on action to work towards creating a more sustainable city.”

“Earning them the Environmental Innovation & Protection category was the council’s many initiatives to revive the Yarra River, one of the municipality’s main natural assets. A number of programs and restoration initiatives to encourage the community to take advantage of this resource were implemented, including the upgrade of the main YARRA trail to encourage walking and cycling, and measures to prioritise sustainable transport.”

“The council’s dedication to honouring the area’s Aboriginal history, as well as raising awareness within the non-Aboriginal community, gained them recognition in the Heritage & Culture category. This also recognised their moves to connect themselves with the community’s youth through programs such as ‘Resource Smart Schools’ and projects including the Collingwood Children’s Farm.”

“Each of these initiatives helps generate widespread awareness and action within the local community.” Olesinski added.

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

The Australian Sustainable Cities Awards 2011 are sponsored by the *Do the Right Thing* Program of the Packaging Stewardship Forum, Australian Food and Grocery Council, Visy Industries, ToysRUs, Replas and Tennant.

The overall Australian Sustainable Cities Awards 2011 winner was the City of Kogarah in NSW.

Further information about the Australian Sustainable Communities Awards can be found at [www.kab.org.au](http://www.kab.org.au)

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**Keep Australia Beautiful  
Australian Sustainable Cities Awards Finalists 2011**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
<b>Overall Winner</b>	<b>Kogarah, NSW</b>	
<b>Community Action &amp; Partnerships</b>	<b>Winner - Ipswich, QLD</b> Highly commended – Kogarah, NSW	
<b>'Dame Phyllis Frost' Litter Prevention</b>	<b>Winner - Kogarah, NSW</b> Highly commended – Subiaco, WA	<i>Do the Right Thing</i> Program of the Packaging Stewardship Forum, Australian Food and Grocery Council
<b>Resource Recovery &amp; Waste Management</b>	<b>Winner - Charles Sturt, SA</b> Highly commended: Ipswich, QLD	Visy Industries
<b>Environmental Innovation &amp; Protection</b>	<b>Winner - Yarra, VIC</b> Highly commended – Charles Sturt, SA	
<b>Water Conservation</b>	<b>Winner - Subiaco, WA</b> Highly commended – Kogarah, NSW	
<b>Heritage &amp; Culture</b>	<b>Winner – Kogarah, NSW</b> Highly commended – Yarra, VIC	
<b>Young Legends</b>	<b>Winner - Burnie, TAS</b> Highly commended – Yarra, VIC	ToysRUs
<b>Energy Innovation</b>	<b>Winner - Sustainable Skills Training Hub, ACT</b> Highly commended – Charles Sturt, SA	

Full details can be found at <http://www.kab.org.au/programs/sustainable-cities/>