



# Media Release

12 August 2009

## National Judge visits Launceston

The Australian Sustainable Cities Awards judge, Sean Rooney, will be visiting Launceston City Council, as part of a national judging tour for Keep Australia Beautiful. The judge will visit on Thursday August 13 and will evaluate the community using the eight categories of the national awards which include litter reduction and community action.

The judge faces the tough task of determining which of the state finalists should be crowned the national winner for 2009, following Frankston's success in 2008. "The Australian Sustainable Cities Awards are highlighting the efforts of our urban communities in reducing their environmental impact. All the state finalists have demonstrated excellent environmental outcomes with each of their activities and I'm looking forward to visiting them." Commented the Judge, Sean Rooney.

Other state finalists include:

WA: Brunswick River Restoration Action Group (BRRAG), Shire of Harvey, pop 21,317

SA: City of Port Adelaide pop 102,929

VIC: Hobson Bay City Council pop 86,121

ACT: Oz Harvest, ACT pop 347,000

(NT, NSW, QLD to be announced shortly)

Barrie Muir, state judge for Keep Australia Beautiful Tasmania, commented that he has been impressed with Launceston's leadership role and ability to respond to community needs. "Launceston has shown itself to be very strong, not only in the areas of protection of the environment and in the way it is dealing with the very sensitive areas of waste management and resource recovery, but in the very proud way that it researches and promotes the exciting heritage and culture which lies behind the building of what I believe to be one of the nation's most interesting cities."

The Australian Sustainable Cities Awards will be announced in October.

### **Media Alert:**

**Photo Opportunity with National Judge, and elected representatives.**

**Time: 12noon, Thursday 13 August**

**Location: First Basin Volunteer Centre, Cataract Gorge**

**Media Contact:**

For further information about the judge's visit, or photo opportunities, please contact:

KAB: Jodie Mills, 0402 305 231 or jodiem@kab.org.au; Lara Shannon on 0415 076 015 or laras@kab.org.au

Launceston City Council: Carly Gange, Media Officer, (03) 6323 3000, 0400 233 127

**EDITOR'S NOTES:****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:**

Keep Australia Beautiful seeks to lead, challenge and inspire all Australians to strive for a sustainable and litter free environment. It does this through the Australian Sustainable Communities Awards consisting of the Tidy Towns, Sustainable Cities and Clean Beaches Awards. Each awards program commences with state and territory awards and culminates in a national grand final. The awards focus on litter reduction and local sustainability.

The Australian Sustainable Cities Awards are sponsored by:

Packaging Stewardship Forum 'Do the Right Thing' program

The Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council provides a vehicle for broader corporate support for Australia's efforts to improve resource recovery and reduce littering of food, beverage and grocery packaging.

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.

Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM)

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 in the communities in which they live.

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