

Media Release

November 6, 2010



The Overall State Tidy Towns Winner for 2011 is... Lithgow!

The Central West town of **Lithgow** took the top title of Overall State Tidy Town at the 2011 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Celebration Weekend held in Lockhart, November 5-7, Attended by special guest the Governor of New South Wales, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO.

The Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards program celebrates 30 years in NSW this year. It is the largest practical environmental program for regional NSW. More than a beauty contest, the program celebrates the real, innovative and sustainable efforts of participating rural NSW communities.

This is the second time Lithgow has won the award, with it also taking the State title in 1997.

Peter McLean said the 2011 Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards program was a huge success, with more than 300 people from right across NSW attending over the weekend.

“The awards weekend is a fantastic opportunity to recognise those communities achieving positive results for their built and natural environments, often in the face of a tough economic or geographic climate,” Peter McLean said.

“Lithgow took the prestigious 2011 Overall State Tidy Towns Award. It was assessed by Luciano Mesiti who was particularly impressed by Lithgow’s community spirit and the way in which a great number of groups worked together for the common goal of a more sustainable community.

“Lithgow will go up against the Overall State Winners in each State and Territory across Australia for the National judging of the 2011 Australian Tidy Town Award, to be announced in April next year.”

Tidy Towns assessor Luciano Mesiti said Lithgow had an immensely proactive community spirit.

“Lithgow has many projects and activities that are working towards the social, environmental and economic improvement of the town and region,” Luciano Mesiti said. “It’s evident that Lithgow has repositioned its image over the past 20 years from being a mining town to become a popular destination for visitors with a wealth of attractions for everyone.”

Lithgow, in population category E (10,001-25,000), was also the winner of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW Wildlife Corridors and Habitats Conservation Award, and highly commended for the Heritage Branch Cultural Heritage Award and Country Energy Bush Spirit Award.

Entrants in the Overall Award are subject to an independently field assessment and secondary judging to determine a first, second and third placing in each population category. The winner of each population category is then subject to further judging with statistical analysis to determine the Overall State winner.

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW thanks the 2011 Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards program sponsors Grundfos, Department of Planning Heritage Branch, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, Country Energy and the Packaging Stewardship Forum.

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Editor’s notes: A table of Overall Award recipients and category winners is attached. Please contact Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Communications Manager Ilona Marchetta for further judges comments on specific towns and submissions, and photos, on 9633 3380 or imarchetta@kabnsw.org.au. Peter McLean, CEO, is available for interviews on 0416 227 158. Visit www.kabnsw.org.au to register for next year’s program.