



ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION & PROTECTION COMMENDATION

WAIKERIE South Australia

WAIKERIE is situated in SA's Riverland, within the Murray Darling Basin and is gateway to a broad range of unique wetlands and floodplains. Consequently, biodiversity protection plays an important role in maintaining ecological balance. The local community supports and promotes an integrated approach to managing, protecting and enhancing flora and fauna within the region, particularly through involvement with natural resource management programs as part of Local Action Planning (LAP) committees.

Local primary and secondary schools in WAIKERIE include biodiversity education activities. Great example is the primary school's Youth Environment Team (YET) who are active participants in a broad range of environmental activities.

Local farmer, Allan Buckley is to be commended as founder of the Mallee Sustainable farming site which has been an innovation in sustainable farming techniques which have been trailed and now used extensively by local and interstate farmers. The value of environmental services provided by farmers is now being recognised and significant environmental benefits are being derived for the wider community.

ENERGY INNOVATION AWARD

WAIKERIE South Australia

WAIKERIE's residents view energy conservation and the use of renewable fuels as a cost-effective and more sustainable alternative. The community are proactively reducing greenhouse emissions through a wide range of initiatives.

On entering WAIKERIE, town entrance signs promote the use of renewable energy by using solar power generators which sets a great example for the community to follow.

District Council of Loxton WAIKERIE purchases a percentage of 'Green Power' for their facilities, etc, and energy efficiencies for the building and construction industry are proactively promoted and encouraged by the Council.

Numerous horticulturists have taken up solar technology which is used on irrigation systems together with several local residents also installing banks of solar panels for domestic use.

Other private developments include the installation of three solar farms which generate up to 60KW of energy.

Energy and Climate Change education is an integral part of the education system within WAIKERIE. Examples include solar panels being installed and energy use monitored by students, students engaged in power saving projects together with mentoring of younger students focusing on safety through the development of an Energy Safety Week mascot and poster competition.

YOUNG LEGENDS AWARD COMMENDATION WAIKERIE South Australia

Environmental education programs are a major focus throughout WAIKERIE's education system. Schools are strongly focused on environmental programs with innovative approaches to education and developed community partnerships for positive environmental outcomes.

All primary and secondary schools in WAIKERIE include biodiversity education activities. These are on an individual school basis or include partnerships with other schools, council, community groups and service clubs.

The WAIKERIE Primary School – Youth Environment Team (YET) participate in an extensive range of environmental activities which include: Waterwatch, Gutter Guardians, Road Watch, recycling programs, plant propagation and worm farming.

They have been nominated for many awards and have been named environmental school of the year in South Australia.

Other school with strong biodiversity education programs is the WAIKERIE High School. It has a cross curriculum which provides students from year 8 – year 12 with various options to participate. Students take part in a number of environmental activities and learn the basics of plant and animal classification.

Other groups which support the environmental education programs include the Riverland West Local Action Planning Association and WAIKERIE Scout Group.