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Leadership helps Hedland pick up State Tidy Town title

Portfolio: Environment

The Pilbara town of Hedland (Port and South Hedland) has claimed the State title in the 2009 Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities awards at a ceremony held in Perth today.

Environment Minister Donna Faragher said Hedland was committed to not only improving the town's infrastructure and environment but also to developing its people and relationships.

"The community engagement and youth development efforts are exemplary and the successful 'Cash for Trash' initiative and associated activities showed real leadership," Mrs Faragher said.

"Other initiatives that contributed to Hedland's success included the significant community effort in monitoring and protecting the flatback turtle, a native plant nursery and the 'Hedlights' project which brings art into the industrial area."

The 2009 State category award winners were:

- Community Action: Hedland (Port and South Hedland)
- General Appearance: Westonia
- Recycling and Waste Management: Hedland (Port and South Hedland)
- Natural Heritage Conservation: Greenbushes
- Enhancing Cultural Identity: Hedland (Port and South Hedland)
- Water Conservation: Walpole

The Minister said the State awards were a chance to recognise and reward communities for the contributions they had made to improve the appearance and environment of their towns, and to ensure their communities could look forward to a sustainable future.

"These communities have put in a significant amount of work on projects that support and encourage sustainable living and aim to protect our environment for the benefit of current and future generations," she said.

"They've demonstrated how we can all make a difference through our individual efforts and more importantly, come together as a community to make positive changes."

Hedland is now in the running for the national Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities awards to be announced next year.

A total of 41 towns entered this year's Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities awards program. Hedland takes over the State title from the previous winner, Kambalda, which went on to win the Environmental Innovation award at the national ceremony held in Canberra last May.

Keep Australia Beautiful in Western Australia is supported by the Department of Environment and Conservation. Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities is sponsored by the Packaging Stewardship Forum and Grundfos. Golden West Network (GWN) is a media partner.

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