



STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 10:30PM ON MONDAY 27 AUGUST 2007

Toowoomba claims victory in Ergon Energy Tidy Towns 2007

Toowoomba has tonight been announced as Queensland's tidiest town for 2007, taking out the overall title in this year's prestigious Ergon Energy Tidy Towns competition.

The Darling Downs community out-performed 202 other entrants to claim the coveted title at a gala awards ceremony at Conrad Jupiters on the Gold Coast.

Toowoomba was presented with its award by the Premier's representative, Hon Margaret Keech, Minister for Tourism.

In recognition of Toowoomba's achievement, Ergon Energy Chief Executive Tony Bellas announced that the company would provide the town with a green energy prize.

"As the principal sponsor of the Queensland Tidy Towns program for nine years, we've seen first-hand the hard work it takes to be crowned the very best in the state, so this prize is our way of congratulating Toowoomba on a job well done," Mr Bellas said.

"The initiative is also a great opportunity for Toowoomba residents to learn how to make their community even more sustainable by becoming more energy aware."

"Ergon Energy's green energy is produced from renewable sources, such as wind, biomass, solar and hydro energy."

Mr Bellas congratulated the winners, finalists and all of the communities that had participated in the Ergon Energy Tidy Towns competition this year.

"The Tidy Towns competition is all about fostering sustainable communities"

"In the nine years we've been associated with the competition, we've seen the enormous difference the Ergon Energy Tidy Towns program has made across the state, with support going from strength to strength," Mr Bellas said.

Ergon Energy is proud to partner with Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland to show our ongoing commitment to supporting the communities in which we work and live.

"This partnership also reflects our philosophy of sustainability by giving us an opportunity to promote green energy, environmental awareness and regional development in Queensland."

Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland CEO Carole Miller said Toowoomba's win was the result of an outstanding council and community partnership.

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for more information visit our website | www.KeepAustraliaBeautiful.org.au/towns



"Toowoomba is a community committed to enhancing quality of life for its residents while honouring its rich cultural heritage," Ms Miller said.

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"The people of Toowoomba are friendly, enthusiastic and dedicated to caring for their unique environment.

"Volunteers, community groups and council staff work together to make their town a winning community."

Ms Miller said Toowoomba was up against some stiff competition from the Tidiest Town finalists from the other seven judging regions. "With 202 towns vying for the coveted title, the competition was always going to be fierce.

"It's the 33rd consecutive year that Toowoomba has taken part in the competition and the community has picked up a swag of regional awards over the years.

"It's wonderful to see the town's outstanding commitment to the program and determination to continually improve result in a state title."

Toowoomba will now go on to contest the Australian Tidy Towns Awards in April next year.

As well as Queensland's Ergon Energy Tidiest Town, 10 outstanding accomplishment awards were announced:

1. *Tourism Queensland Friendliest Town Award*
Proserpine | North Queensland
2. *Australia Post Bush Spirit Award*
Mt Morgan | Central Queensland
3. *RACQ Litter Prevention Award*
Hervey Bay | North Queensland
4. *Do the Right Thing Resource Management Award, Sponsored by Packaging & Stewardship Forum*
Beerwah | South East Queensland
5. *Smorgon Steel Recycling Partnership Award*
Pine Rivers Shire & North Lakes | South East Queensland
6. *Environmental Protection Award*
Cooktown | Far North Queensland
7. *Young Legends Award*
Mackay/Beaconsfield State School | North Queensland
8. *Heritage & Cultural Award*
Aramac | Western Queensland
9. *Sustainable Solutions Award*
Birdsville | Western Queensland
10. *Community Action Award*
Woodgate Beach | Wide Bay Burnett

Ms Miller said the outstanding accomplishment award winners were the cream of the crop in their categories.

"The Ergon Energy Tidy Towns competition continues to go from strength to strength, with exceptional councils and communities working together for a more sustainable Queensland," she said.

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