



Australian Government



NATIONAL AWARDS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT



About the Awards

The annual National Awards for Local Government celebrate Australian local government achievements. For the past 30 years, the Awards have acknowledged leading practice solutions by Australian local governments in addressing challenges. The Awards allow winners to share their ideas, expertise and successes.

The 2016 Awards featured ten categories, supported by sponsoring Departments and private sector partners. The categories covered: arts; productivity; digital innovation; regional growth; disability access and inclusion; road safety; innovative cities; multiculturalism; Indigenous recognition; and youth employment.

Local government entries are assessed by panels of category sponsor judges. From the ten category winners, a winner for the *National Award for Excellence in Local Government* was chosen by a national judging panel.

The quality of entries this year was outstanding and highlights the dedication and commitment of councils in working with all levels of government and stakeholders to identify priority issues and put into action robust policies and projects that address regional needs and deliver long-term, sustainable outcomes.

Thanks to our sponsors

For the first time, sponsorship from the private sector – Optus Business and Woodside Energy Ltd. – supported the Australian Government in delivering the Awards.

The 2016 Awards were sponsored by:

Optus Business

Woodside Energy Ltd.

Ministry for the Arts in the Department of Communications and the Arts

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Department of Social Services

For further information on the Awards and to view short films on the winning projects visit: www.infrastructure.gov.au/nalg.



Winner—2016 National Award for Excellence in Local Government

Congratulations to Mackay Regional Council which took out this year's *National Award for Excellence in Local Government* for its 'Transforming a water business' project.

The Mackay Regional Council demonstrated outstanding and creative use of technology in developing and implementing a demand management program to reduce peak water consumption, minimise wastage and combat escalating costs.

The project provides automated metering infrastructure and consumption monitoring software for Council's 40,000 customers. These tools provide Council and its residents with real time data on water consumption.



The technology is changing consumer behaviour and improving outcomes in operational and capital decisions, which in addition to cost benefits to individuals and to Council, also benefits the environment.

Cost benefits include a 10 per cent reduction in peak water consumption and a change in the forward price path, calculated over the next 10 years, resulting in savings of around \$500 per customer, per year.

The project is an excellent example of leading innovative practice which clearly and effectively addresses a problem common to local governments and utilities.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT – BUILDING AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES

For more information visit infrastructure.gov.au/nalg





2016 Category Award Winners



Arts Animates – excellence in building innovative and inspired communities

Sponsored by Ministry for the Arts in the Department of Communications and the Arts

Blue Mountains City Council, New South Wales Street Art Walk

Contact: Mr Paul Brinkman
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Street Art Walk is an outdoor art gallery in Katoomba CBD that enlivens a previously passive laneway. It consists of more than 30 walls that provide over 3,000 square meters of paintable space up to three storeys high featuring street art from all 'aerosol disciplines'. International, national and local artists paint large-scale artworks in this precinct through a curated process of proposal and selection. The murals are temporary, ensuring an evolving gallery



that remains contemporary. Street Art Walk has transformed a dilapidated area into Australia's largest curated outdoor street art gallery. Outcomes include urban beautification, artist validation, increased tourism, social inclusion and community safety.



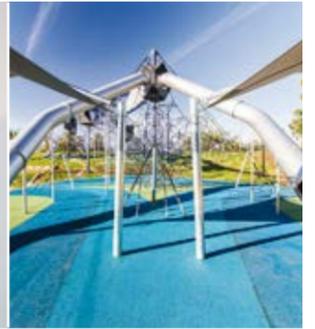
Boosting Productivity through Infrastructure

Sponsored by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Tamworth Regional Council, New South Wales Regional Playground

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Tamworth Regional Playground sets a new standard for community parks in regional NSW by catering for all abilities and age groups, encouraging social inclusion. It features interactive play and health zones that meet a diversity of recreation, health and wellbeing needs, with a focus on children, families, the aged and the disabled. Equipment includes a 'Skywalk' which is the only one of its kind in the southern hemisphere, three giant slides, four towers and a web style net. The facility



is separated into zones to suit toddlers, juniors and seniors. The equipment was selected to match all abilities and also includes a wheelchair-accessible carousel and mammoth swing. It is a free facility which offers picnic and BBQ areas in addition to a café/restaurant. The facility is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week due to use of 'smart' technology for lighting, CCTV, parking and waste removal.



Contributing to Regional Growth

Sponsored by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Swan Hill Rural City Council, Victoria Pioneer Settlement Redevelopment, Heartbeat of the Murray

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The Pioneer Settlement in Swan Hill is a living history museum which interprets pioneering life in the Murray/Mallee region. Swan Hill Rural City Council has recently undertaken an innovative redevelopment of this ageing attraction to transform it into a living and breathing experience centre that draws more visitors by providing an interactive experience. The central feature is 'The Heartbeat of the Murray', a sound

and light spectacular set on the banks of the Little Murray River that uses water as the medium to interpret the story of the Murray River. An augmented reality phone application complements the Heartbeat show. In addition, the Lower Murray Inn has been reconfigured into a function, restaurant and bar space, and an old hall has been redeveloped into a fully functioning commercial cafe run by a volunteer group.



Digital Innovation in Local Government

Sponsored by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Mackay Regional Council, Queensland Transforming a Water Business

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Mackay Regional Council developed this strategy to cope with the pressure of high population growth and infrastructure capacity. Water & Waste Services, a commercialised business unit of the Council, faced challenges that included tariff growth well in excess of inflation rates. Recognising that this was not sustainable, Council adopted a strategy based on non-capital solutions, notably a demand management program featuring automated metering infrastructure,



and MiWater a consumption monitoring software that includes a free community portal, myh2o. This integrated system provides the Council and residents with detailed information on water consumption patterns to help them make informed decisions on water usage. Property owners can view daily water consumption, and are alerted to leaks and high consumption. Residents are being educated on their consumption via a social marketing campaign 'Watch the Flow.'



LOCAL GOVERNMENT – BUILDING AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES

For more information visit infrastructure.gov.au/nalg



Disability Access and Inclusion

Sponsored by the Department of Social Services

Kiama Municipal Council, New South Wales
Kiama Dementia Friendly Project

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This project commenced in July 2014 when the Council was approached by Alzheimer's Australia and the University of Wollongong to take part in piloting a dementia-friendly community. The project's collaborative approach is driven by people living with dementia and uses a participatory action research model and a community development framework to build individual and group skills and achieve sustainability. Qualitative research

addressed attitudes to dementia, aspects of the physical environment that require change and generally what it is like for dementia sufferers to live in Kiama. An Action Plan was then developed in consultation with members of the Dementia Friendly Alliance and advisory groups. Activities include community events to raise knowledge of the project; education for the community and health providers; the Ourplace interactive online map of dementia-friendly places; inter-generational work with the Council's Youth Service; a business seminar on the benefits of being dementia-friendly; and the launching of the Dementia Illawarra Shoalhaven website to provide a one shop stop for professionals and the wider community.



Excellence in Road Safety

Sponsored by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Southern Downs Regional Council, Queensland
Backpackers and Regional Workers Road Safety Campaign

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The project provides information on road safety to backpackers and seasonal workers who come to the Southern Downs region to harvest fruit and vegetables. The project was initiated after fatal crashes involving foreign backpackers and recognition that further road safety education was needed. It provides this education through hard infrastructure such as innovative multilingual signage and road markings, road safety marketing

materials in the form of banner pens and flyers, community events welcoming backpackers and workers to the region, and online materials that highlight road safety and driving conditions unique to Queensland and Australia. The project supports key objectives of the National Road Safety Strategy, including its provision for "developing road rules and enforcement strategies to encourage compliance and manage non-compliance with the road rules."



Innovation to Create More Liveable Australian Cities

Sponsored by Optus Business

Mackay Regional Council, Queensland
Revitalisation and Activation of Mackay City Centre

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Mackay City Centre has experienced a complete makeover of its physical infrastructure, services and image as a result of this \$18 million revitalisation. The City Centre Revitalisation Project covered streetscapes, restoration of the former council building and public art. It is the first stage of an overarching strategy to create a revamped hub of activity, and to implement new events

and services that encourage city visitation, expenditure and investment. Finalisation of this initiative, co-funded by the Council and the Australian Government, was marked by a rebranding and reactivation strategy. This commenced with a Twilight City celebration that attracted more than 25,000 people and served to rebrand the city centre. It simultaneously served as a platform for launching new marketing materials, including free WiFi for city-goers and a new-look website. In an effort to 'freshen up' building exteriors and align them with the city's more modern look, the Council introduced the successful Façade Improvement Scheme, under which it approved over 30 grants.



Multicultural Australia – Strength in Diversity

Sponsored by the Department of Social Services

City of Greater Dandenong, Victoria
Creating Change – Social Cohesion Program

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As the most culturally diverse municipality in Victoria, Greater Dandenong seeks to build a socially cohesive community through innovative inclusive services and programs. The Council's Youth and Family Services department developed Creating Change to encourage young people to become active agents in strengthening diversity and community resilience. It is a three-part program

which provides opportunities for young people to make meaningful connections across diverse cultures. Part 1 teaches effective self-resilience strategies, peace building and conflict management skills by providing information and activities that explore identity, what contributes to a harmonious community and how to create an inclusive community. Part 2, Building Bridges, is a follow-on full-day module that extends the group's thinking and combines participants from across participating schools to further discuss and share interfaith and intercultural experiences. Part 3 involves the participants in delivering school-based projects.





2016 Category Award Winners



Promoting Indigenous Recognition

Sponsored by Woodside Energy Ltd.

City of Stirling, Western Australia Stirling Aboriginal Engagement Project

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The City of Stirling identified a serious issue of conflict between Aboriginal and culturally diverse communities, particularly with newly arrived migrants. To build understanding, the Council introduced Cultural Orientation Tours for new migrants that included an Aboriginal cultural component.

These were so successful that the City is extending Mooro Country tours to the wider community. Tours take in significant Aboriginal sites within the City. Participants learn about traditional medicine, bush tucker and the cultural practices of the Noongar people. The tours are delivered in conjunction with Wadjak Northside Aboriginal Community Group. To maintain sustainability, the City has been working with the Wadjak Group to involve members in delivering the tours. It anticipates that these tours will be managed by the Aboriginal community, creating opportunities for further training and employment.



Youth Economic Participation

Sponsored by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

City of Yarra, Victoria Yarra Young Entrepreneur Program

Contact: Ms Elinor Porat
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The Yarra Young Entrepreneurs program is an initiative of the City of Yarra to assist unemployed young people to engage with their local community and the workforce by offering an innovative solution that links local businesses and young job seekers. It was developed in response to increasing levels of youth unemployment and requests from young

people accessing Yarra Youth Services for assistance in pursuing small business ideas. It was designed as an alternative to funded mainstream employment programs, by providing viable options for young people aged 16–25 to create their own employment opportunities. In partnership with members of the local business community, the Council's Youth Development Officer led a series of training workshops for eight young people to discuss and develop business ideas. Participants were then connected to mentors who provided ongoing support to further develop business ideas and facilitated connections with local businesses.



2016 Highly Commended

Promoting Indigenous Recognition

Sponsored by Woodside Energy Ltd.

Mosman Municipal Council, NSW Bungaree's Farm

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Bungaree's Farm is a program for the development of contemporary Aboriginal art practices and features an exhibition which explores Bungaree's legacy arising from his prominence as an Indigenous identity in early colonial Sydney.

towards overseas-born residents. With the Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia, the Council developed a day celebrating the cultural diversity of overseas-born residents called 'Big Day Out In Harmony'.

Disability Access and Inclusion

Sponsored by the Department of Social Services

City of Greater Dandenong, Vic 'Walkfest' Disability Inclusion Project

Contact: Mr Mark Carter
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The Walkfest project is a community-based initiative promoting integration and social inclusion of people with disability. Participants work in partnership with young people from mainstream education settings to develop and deliver this large scale community event to promote the health benefits of walking.

Digital Innovation in Local Government

Sponsored by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Logan City Council, Qld Logan's Interactive Mapping Tool and Online Estimators

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Logan's Interactive Mapping Tool is a planning scheme mapping tool and platform for Australia's first online Infrastructure Charges Estimator and Environmental Offsets Estimator. It was developed to support customer enquiries and has proved popular for its ease of use in delivering property specific planning information.

Contributing to Regional Growth

Sponsored by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Cairns Regional Council, Qld Cairns Water Security Strategy – A Community Collaborative Approach

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Cairns Regional Council is actively engaging with its community on the development of its 30-year water security

strategy to ensure safe, reliable and secure water supplies supporting population and economic growth. A number of different water supply options were identified in Council and adjacent catchments.

Arts Animates – excellence in building innovative and inspired communities

Sponsored by Ministry for the Arts in the Department of Communications and the Arts

Bathurst Regional Council, NSW Bathurst Possum Skin Cloak Project

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The Bathurst Possum Skin Project was a multi-faceted community arts project. The objective of the Project was to create opportunities for reconciliation, empowerment and cultural understanding during Bathurst's commemoration of its Bicentennial year in 2015. The project hosted a Possum Skin Cloak Workshop where over 60 members of the community worked together to construct and decorate two traditional possum skin cloaks.



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