



2010 Local Government Awards for Excellence

Winners' Project Summaries

CATEGORY – Delivering Excellence for our Communities

Winner: Kingborough Council - Conversations in Kingston: A Youth Transport Project

- Kingborough Council took a simple yet innovative approach to youth consultation on transport issues in their municipality with the use of an iconic red couch which travelled throughout Kingborough to initiate a series of conversations with local people.
- The red couch, accompanied by an interviewer and a film crew, was placed in strategic locations throughout the Kingborough area and beyond, including local high schools, the University of Tasmania, bus stops, aboard the Bruny Island ferry, the main street of Kingston, Blackmans Bay beach and other public spaces. The entire process was filmed and a 40 minute documentary and a report with recommendations were produced.
- Apart from leading to strategies now embedded in the Kingborough Integrated Transport Strategy, the council is also already actioning ideas generated to improve transport options for young people in their municipality.
- This approach to community consultation could easily be replicated in other councils with opportunity to further develop the experience using Kingsborough's learning.

Category: Delivering Excellence for our People

Winner: Launceston City Council – Employer of Choice

- The only Tasmanian Council to be awarded a State Government Employer of Choice Award in 2009, Launceston City Council has altered its day to day activities to achieve continuous improvement and cultural change by providing employees with a working environment that is innovative and supportive
- Council's work culture encourages new ideas and open communication where employees provide formal feedback through bi-annual surveys as well as directly contributing through committees.

- In partnership with its employees, Council has achieved a workplace which provides initiatives that attract new employees and assist in the retention, good morale and satisfaction of existing employees.
- Since the implementation of *Employer of Choice* practices there has been a reduction in employee turnover and the program could be easily adopted by other councils to support staff and elected members.

Category: Delivering Excellence in Natural or Built Environments

Winner: Launceston City Council – Launceston Aquatic

- Launceston Aquatic, \$26m regional aquatic facility, employs world's best practice principles for heritage and sustainable design while providing an environment for social, recreational, sporting and health and wellbeing activities for all ages and community groups.
- Construction of the new facility was undertaken after extensive community consultation to ensure minimal disruption during the construction process and maximum satisfaction within the community once it was completed.
- Environmental factors were kept in mind through the implementation of sustainable design initiatives to minimise environmental impact and operational costs by reducing water and electrical usage.
- While the scale of this project may not be one experienced by all councils, demonstrated learning in relation to sustainable design, project management and issues management that can be utilised across many sectors.

Category: Demonstrating Operational Excellence

Winner: Brighton Council – Common Service Provision Model

- One of the smaller local governments among Tasmania's 29 municipalities, Brighton Council has developed strategic agreements for resource sharing with six Tasmanian councils, selling the expertise of its professional staff and particular services to councils which don't have the resources.
- Brighton benefits from the income it receives from selling its services, its clients benefit through reduced costs and staffing requirements and the Brighton community benefits from enhanced services and minimal rates increases.
- In addition, council has developed operational software that is now used by nine Tasmanian councils, three councils in Western Australia, two in New South Wales and Suva City Council in Fiji.
- Brighton Council has provided a fantastic example of how entrepreneurship and resource sharing can help achieve local government sustainability for the long term.