

Media Release

Friday 6 August 2021

2021 MAV Insurance Local Government Awards for Excellence

LGAT congratulates Break O'Day Council and Devonport City Council as the winners of the 2021 Local Government Awards for Excellence.

The annual Local Government Awards for Excellence aim to promote outstanding achievement and inspire leading practice and continuous improvement in Tasmanian councils. The Awards for Excellence (Awards) recognise and reward councils for their hard work benefiting local communities.

The Awards sponsored by MAV Insurance, were presented today during the 2021 LGAT Annual Conference. This year, 14 high standard nominations were received from over 10 Tasmanian councils.

LGAT President Mayor Christina Holmdahl congratulated all Awards nominees:

"I am delighted to see such a strong field of nominations representing a large range of outstanding projects being implemented across Tasmania by Local Government. I congratulate Break O'Day Council and Devonport City Council on their winning entries" Mayor Holmdahl said.

Break O'Day Council won the Delivering Excellence – Smaller Council Award (population under 15,000)

Break O'Day's winning project was the: Trail Ambassador Program and the BOD Trails Collective. The Awards judges noted that Break O'Day project was a highly innovative approach to secure ongoing funding for mountain bike trails, without putting pressure on rates and ratepayers. The sustainable funding model ensures that the trails are well maintained and extended, reinforcing the St Helens brand.

The initiative has created social, economic and wider regional pride in identity with businesses taking on names for their products and creating a 'brand' from the program. The project has included and brought the community along, so they feel very much part of the trails and the 'brand'.

**Devonport City Council won the Delivering Excellence – Larger Council Award
(population over 15,000)**

Devonport City Council's winning entry was: The Road to Digital Transformation | A Council & Community Transformed

The Awards judges highlighted the Devonport City Council has transformed how it thinks about and delivers its services to its community. The initiative demonstrated the importance of working with all staff to understand problems and then to find the best solutions – which has supported a positive change of the organisational culture.

For ratepayers, the project has delivered improved services, faster response times, less frustration and clearer requirements. Internally the benefits have included higher productivity and reduced staff frustration.

Overall, the project is highly innovative for Tasmanian local government and provides a model for 21st century councils.

Ends.

See attached photos.

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