



MEDIA RELEASE
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Clarence Recycled Water Scheme receives Gold Award for Excellence

Clarence City Council has been named the Gold Award Winner of the 2007 Tasmanian Local Government Awards for Excellence and the winner of the Sustainable Community Assets Award for its innovative recycled water scheme.

The Clarence Recycled Water Scheme is recognised as a remarkable engineering, environmental and economic response to two of Australia's most pressing issues – water conservation and pollution reduction.

Last year Tasmania experienced a record dry winter, with Hobart recording the lowest total rainfall for the season in 125 years.

In September last year, Clarence City Council opened the largest water recycling scheme in Tasmania, allowing the replacement of fresh water resources with recycled water for agricultural use.

LGAT President Mike Gaffney said the Scheme provided up to 2,700 megalitres of recycled water to around 100 Tasmanian growers.

“It provides a renewable water source to a wide range of users in Clarence from broad acre agribusinesses and golf courses, receiving over 250 megalitres a year, to small horticultural and viticultural users, receiving less than 10 megalitres a year,” Mayor Gaffney said.

“In the first six months of operating, seven of the 25 users of the Scheme have substantially commenced using the recycled water and 361 megalitres of effluent, 11 tonnes of nitrogen and three tonnes of phosphorus have been diverted from the River Derwent.

“Through periods of drought farmers in the area are now able to access a reliable water resource, available every day of the year. Additionally these farmers have benefited from the fact that the water is nutrient rich.”

Category Award winners included:

- **West Coast Council – Building Better Futures through Governance Award** for its LPG project, which aims to enhance the sustainability of Council and provide an

alternative to high fuel costs for the West Coast community by introducing LPG outlets and transferring Council's fleet of vehicles to LPG.

- **Huon Valley Council – Developing Council People Award** for its Workplace Health Program, offering free health screening for all Council employees, available during work hours.
- **Glenorchy City Council – Invigorating Communities Award** for its Glenorchy Operation Bounceback program, which aims to reduce the incidence of vehicle theft and the likelihood of becoming a victim of motor vehicle theft.
- **Brighton Council – Innovation and Creativity Award** for its Rates Modelling software application that simplifies the laborious process of running rates estimates for all councils in Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Local Government Awards for Excellence recognise councils that accomplish those elements that, individually or combined, demonstrate commitment towards excellence for the benefit of Tasmanians.

The Awards were presented by the Tasmanian Minister for Community Development and Minister Assisting the Premier for Local Government the Hon. Michelle O'Byrne MHA at the Civic Mutual Plus Survivors Dinner.

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