



**Strictly embargoed until 10pm
Thursday, 19 June 2008**

Media Release

King Island cream of the crop

King Island Council has been named the overall Gold Winner of the 2008 Tasmanian Local Government Awards for Excellence for an innovative waste management project.

Council took out the Sustainable Community Assets Award for its Currie Waste Management Facility, before going on to win the Gold Award for the evening.

LGAT President Mike Gaffney said the Association was delighted to recognise the Council, which had demonstrated a proactive approach to providing a sustainable service for the processing of waste generated on King Island.

“Prior to the opening of the Currie Waste Management Facility, all waste received by King Island Council was deposited in an uncontrolled manner on a central site in close proximity to sensitive areas,” Mayor Gaffney said.

“The new state-of-the-art facility has markedly decreased the potential negative impacts on the local community and the environment caused by noise, odour, fires, vermin and litter.”

Waste is segregated at the facility into putrescibles, inert and recyclable material. The putrescible waste is then delivered into a purpose built shed, where it is compacted, baled and wrapped in a protective covering, which minimises odours and loose materials from escaping. The bales are then transported to the Landfill Site at Pegarah.

“The new development also provides new opportunities for the effective reuse and recycling of the waste collected,” Mayor Gaffney said.

“The Currie Waste Management Facility is integral to providing a waste management system for King Island that satisfies current State and Commonwealth statutory requirements as well as community expectations.”

Other Category Award Winners include:

- **Meander Valley Council – Building Better Futures through Governance** for its *Waterways Audit and Signage Project*.
- **Tasman Council – Innovation and Creativity Award** for *Improving Water Quality and Efficiency at Nubeena*.
- **Derwent Valley Council – Invigorating Communities Award** for its innovative *Children’s Educational Bike Track*.

**Project summaries attached*

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.

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