



# MEDIA RELEASE

**STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL  
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## **Dorset and Central Coast Councils Deliver Excellence for their Communities**

Activities and investment in encouraging fitter communities and healthier lifestyles has seen two Tasmanian councils recognised in the annual Local Government Awards for Excellence, announced today at the 2014 Local Government Conference at Wrest Point.

In the *Delivering Excellence - Smaller Councils (populations under 10,000)* category, Dorset Council was recognised for delivering an innovative and far-reaching program of activities targeting youth aged 12-25 including festivals, holiday programs, a travelling awareness program and trips for groups to new places.

The *Active Youth Program*, relying on volunteers and designed with input from the Dorset Council's youth advisors, responded to a gap in the market for youth-oriented recreational services.

Judges praised the Council for delivering a free service on a limited budget to youth in the region and said the program was engaging a broad range of community participants, and assisting in overcoming disaffection through tough economic times in the municipality.

In the *Delivering Excellence - Larger Councils (populations over 10,000)* category, Central Coast Council was recognised for its development of the Penguin Mountain Bike Park.

With mountain biking a fast growing sport, tourism and leisure market, Central Coast Council saw the construction of international standard mountain bike infrastructure at Penguin and into the Dial Range to the south would increase visitor numbers to the region. They also wanted it to be community accessible.

Driven by the Cradle Coast Mountain Bike Club, the project was also designed to facilitate opportunities to provide training for registered medium to long-term unemployed in receipt of New Start or Disability Support.

Judges commended Central Coast Council for its vision in developing a project with short, medium and long-term benefits, and in forming key partnerships using various funding sources to deliver a quality infrastructure project that the whole community can benefit from and be proud of.

The awards are sponsored by MAV Insurance and were presented by MAV Insurance President, Clr Bill McArthur at the 2014 Local Government Conference. Each winning council received a trophy and, for the first time, \$1,000 prize money for staff development activities.

The Awards for Excellence aim to promote outstanding achievement and inspire leading management practice and continuous improvement within the sector.

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**For media enquiries, or to obtain photographs taken at the awards presentation, please contact Keryn Nylander at Nylander Consulting on 0418 996 536.**

\*Photos for print are attached.