



2025 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AWARDS

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AWARDS EVENT SPONSORS



Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

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Disclaimer

The information in this booklet has been provided by the Award nominees and referees chosen by them. Every effort has been made to present all the information contained in this booklet as accurately as possible.

Cover image: 2025 Overall Sustainable Cities Award Winners - Hornsby Shire Council

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About the Sustainable Cities Awards



SUSTAINABLE CITIES AWARDS

The Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards has been rewarding and recognising projects around litter, waste management, recycling and other environmental areas in metropolitan councils and urban communities since 1994.

The Sustainable Cities Awards inspire councils and communities to make a genuine and lasting contribution to their area, with a broad range of award categories with emphasis on partnership's between local authorities, businesses, community groups, schools and individuals.



About KAB NSW



Keep Australia Beautiful NSW is the premier non-profit organisation leading behaviour change by engaging the community to continually improve our local environment.

Over our 40-year history we have built a state-wide network of dedicated businesses, community groups, councils, schools and individuals assisting our causes.

We deliver many programs throughout the state to promote sustainability and reduce litter:

- Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards (regional)
- Sustainable Cities Awards (metropolitan)
- EnviroMentors® environmental education program
- Annual Conference





Message from the CEO

Since its inception in 1994, the Sustainable Cities Awards Program has continued to recognise and celebrate the councils, businesses, communities, schools and individuals leading the way towards a more sustainable future. Each year, we are inspired by the innovative projects and passionate people who are driving positive change - improving not only our environment but also the quality of life and well-being of our urban communities.

This publication showcases some of the most outstanding entries from 2025, highlighting the creativity, collaboration and commitment behind each initiative. By sharing these achievements, we hope to inspire others to take action and develop new ideas that contribute to a cleaner, greener and more sustainable Australia.

On behalf of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our partners for their continued support, to our dedicated judging panel for their thoughtful evaluation, and to all participants for their remarkable efforts. Congratulations to this year's winners and finalists - your work truly embodies the spirit of keeping Australia beautiful.



Warm regards,

Val Southam
Chief Executive and Executive Director
Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

Thank you to our 2025 Sustainable Cities Awards Event Sponsors



Awards Categories

Circular Economy



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The Circular Economy Award is for any operationally viable projects in the circular economy which do, or could potentially, divert solid materials, fluids or energy from waste streams and return them to the productive economy.

Litter Prevention



Sponsored by



The Litter Prevention Award is for a project or program that reduces or prevents litter, through education, enforcement, infrastructure, clean ups and partnerships.

The Litter Prevention Award has two-subcategories:

- Land-based litter prevention
- Water-based litter prevention

Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation



Sponsored by



The Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Award is for projects that strengthen resilience to the impacts of climate change, reduce emissions, or sequester carbon from the atmosphere.

Heritage & Culture



The Heritage and Culture Award is for community projects that enhance and protect either our built heritage, natural heritage or indigenous cultural heritage.

Liveable Cities



The Liveable Cities Award is for projects that contribute to the liveability of a particular area addressing areas such as accessibility, public spaces, social equity, health and wellbeing.

Plastic Free Communities



Recognising innovation and programs that take action to tackle single use plastics, empowering individuals and businesses to avoid single use products and encourage more sustainable choices.

Local Heroes



The Local Heroes Award recognise individuals who demonstrate leadership and an outstanding commitment in any of the awards categories.

Young Legends (≤ 25)



The Young Legend's Award is for an individual, school (including classes or groups) or a group of individuals (25 years and under) who demonstrate outstanding commitment to their environment and show leadership in pursuing environmental outcomes in any of the awards categories.

Biodiversity Conservation



The Biodiversity Conservation Award is for projects which regenerate, conserve, or advance scientific understanding of biodiversity in terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

Communication & Engagement



The Communication and Engagement Award is for programs and projects that inspire environmental action through education, media and community engagement campaigns.

Community Spirit & Inclusion



The Community Spirit and Inclusion Award is awarded to communities that successfully demonstrate strong community spirit and inclusion in the face of ongoing challenges. This award is given to communities that refuse to 'give in' when facing a challenge.

Resource Recovery



The Resource Recovery Award is for projects or programs that conserve, recycle or minimise wastage of our everyday resources, which include water, food & organic materials, and waste materials.

Waterways & Marine Protection



The Waterways & Marine Protection Award is for programs and actions that create, restore and/or enhance our natural waterways and beaches,

Waste Avoidance



The Waste Avoidance Award is for projects or programs that address waste prevention or reduction and education.

Overall Award



The Overall Award is awarded to a metropolitan council that has successfully undertaken projects or actions in multiple areas of environmental sustainability and social inclusion.

Awards Judges and Assessors



Peter Clark
Managing Director,
Calleo Green

Peter operates a consultancy that offers services across a diverse range of areas including emergency management, incident training, bushfire risk assessment and environmental protection and assessment.

For over two decades, Peter has served as an assessor for the long-running Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Tidy Towns program, and more recently the Sustainable Cities program.

For a number of years, he has also acted as an assessor and judge for the internationally renowned annual open space awards program, Green Flag Award.



Paula Clasby
Senior Manager, Business Development,
TerraCycle ANZ

Paula is a creative, marketing, and business development professional with extensive experience supporting businesses to advance positive environmental and social change. She has worked in various sectors including health, marketing, design, print, hospitality, and over 10 years within sustainability and the built environment. Prior to TerraCycle, Paula worked with GECA (Good Environmental Choice Australia), helping individuals and businesses to advance the circular economy.

Paula prioritises purpose in all her work, drawing on her passion to drive TerraCycle's mission in Eliminating the Idea of Waste®.



Ana Corpuz
Senior Project Officer,
Murray Darling Basin Authority

Ana has over 25 years experience in strategic and operational policy and planning, regulatory review, project management, technical analysis, research and reporting, communication, stakeholder engagement, organisational systems, benchmarking and process improvement, governance framework setting and compliance monitoring.

Her focus areas are on environment and sustainability, water and catchment management, air quality, climate change, waste management, mining and exploration, land use, zoning and redevelopment, transport, contract management and mentoring.



Jeanne-Vida Douglas
Head of Innovation,
Property Industry Foundation

JV is an award-winning marketer, business journalist, and author working at the intersection of sustainability, innovation, and impact.

After early roles championing sustainable solutions across start-ups, media, and professional services, she pivoted following the 2019–20 bushfires to support renewable-energy and circular-economy leaders including Nectr, 5B, and TerraCycle.

Now, as Head of Innovation at the Property Industry Foundation, she advances social sustainability and reimagines solutions to youth homelessness.



Kylie Flament
CEO,
Social Enterprise Council of NSW & ACT

Kylie Flament is an award-winning social enterprise leader and sustainability expert with experience managing large teams and projects across corporate, government, and not-for-profit sectors.

She is currently the Chief Executive Officer of SECNA, where she advocates for building an economy that enables people and the planet to thrive.

She also sits on a number of boards and committees including as a non-executive director of People for Nature and on the Circular Australia industry taskforce.



Yolande Franklin
Small Business
Owner/Contractor

Yolande started working in local government in 2002 and quickly learnt the ropes of waste education, resource recovery and sustainable practices.

A horticulturist by trade, Yolande has long been an advocate of the environment, having grown up in the world heritage Blue Mountains and going on to study Resource Management at University before moving into her career alongside many other waste professionals. "The great outdoors is my greatest joy and being a caretaker my most challenging task".

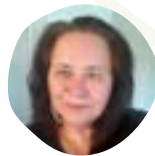
**Anna Lei**

PR & Communications Manager,
TerraCycle ANZ

Anna Lei is a public relations professional with experience across a range of industries.

She began her career at award-winning agency Ogilvy, specialising in consumer PR and influencer marketing, working with global clients such as Netflix, Xbox, eBay and American Express.

In 2023, Anna joined the TerraCycle marketing team hoping to incorporate purpose in her work and combine her passion for environmental advocacy with her professional expertise to champion sustainability and inspire positive change. Anna drives media relations, publicity, and community outreach to inspire and educate on sustainable practices at TerraCycle.

**Layla McNeil**

Strategic Business Manager,
Thesium

Layla has experience in environmental strategic policy development, project and contract management, program delivery, EMS auditing, stakeholder facilitation.

She has knowledge and expertise in developing and delivering strategic environmental and communication plans, cooperative agreements and contracts with multi stakeholders; educational and behaviour change campaigns; environmental auditing, waste and resource management planning; to creating, implementing, reporting and evaluating a variety of sustainability programs.

**Luciano Mesiti**

CEO, Primary Industries Education
Foundation Australia

Luciano is the CEO of Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia, whose aim is to promote food and fibre education in schools nationally. Prior to his appointment he was a high school teacher, teaching agriculture and technology.

Luciano has extensive experience in curriculum development in agriculture and technology and is a very passionate advocate of Landcare and sustainable land manage curriculum in schools. He has been a Tidy Towns judge and assessor for over 15 years and a great supporter of Keep Australia Beautiful.

**Lynda Newnam**

Principal,
Citizen Science Partnerships

Lynda is passionate about bringing volunteered knowledge, ideas and expertise into planning and regulatory processes to address environmental challenges within a framework that champions honesty, accountability and transparency and encourages collaborative stewardship. She has extensive project management experience, particularly in the environment and higher education, as well as 30 years in volunteering. Her formal qualifications are in primary school teaching and carbon management, with undergraduate degrees specialising in structural linguistics, anthropology and government as well as a Master in Environmental Management.

**Tasneem Rangwala**

PhD Aspirant, ISF UTS –
*Developing Adaptive Planning
Framework*

Tasneem is a 2020 National Council of Women NSW Australia Day Award winner for research achievements.

She is a dedicated leader driving change towards environmental enhancements. Her skills include environmental impacts assessments, project management, overseeing strategic regulatory programs, compliance audits and driving efficiency via enhancing quality of processes.

Tasneem has over 25 years' experience working across a range of industries including Environmental Consultancy, State Government Regulatory Authorities and the Biomedical Engineering field.

**Mike Ritchie**

Managing Director,
MRA Consulting Group

Mike has over 35 years' experience in the waste management and recycling industry. He has worked with all levels of government and the private sector.

Mike's roles have included Managing Director of MRA Consulting Group, Group General Manager SUEZ Australia, General Manager WSN Environmental Solutions and State Manager of VISY Recycling. He was also a director of a local government and Senior Advisor to the Mayor of Brisbane.

Awards Judges and Assessors



Jessica Speechley

Senior Coordinator Environmental Health, Blacktown City Council

Jessica leads a team of 17 Environmental Health Officers across three teams.

Jessica has been instrumental in implementing and advancing environmental health programs that enhance the well-being of Blacktown's residents.

Her dedication to creating a healthier and more sustainable community is reflected in her successful prosecution record.



Matt Taylor

Owner/Director, Heart HR

As a former CEO of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, Matthew brings over 7 years' experience from his time managing the organisation, including the Tidy Towns program.

Since leaving KAB, Matthew held a number of roles but his passion for the environment has remained.

Currently, Matt runs his own HR consultancy to support small to medium sized businesses - including many not-for-profit organisations.



Dr Trevor Thornton

Senior Lecturer – Hazardous Materials Management, Deakin University

Trevor is currently employed as a Senior Lecturer at Deakin University and also consults widely on processes to develop and implement programs to reduce environmental impacts for a broad range of industry sectors.

Trevor has a wealth of experience, particularly in areas associated with waste management.

Trevor has been working in various aspects of the waste management industry for over 30 years as a regulator and consultant.



Chris Tola

Manager, Skilled Workforce Program, Regional Development Australia & Publisher, Surfing Roadies

Chris has had an active involvement with many organisations including Surfrider Foundation, Take 3, the Australian Coastal Society, the Australian Radioactivity Protections and Nuclear Safety Agency, National Parks and Wildlife and the EPA.

Since 2002, Chris has periodically been the Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beach Challenge National Assessor and State Judge, and the Tidy Towns Assessor; and was the Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW) Program Manager for Clean Beach Challenge and the Tidy Towns Program (2002 – 2005).



Rick Wiesel

Manager Community Law Enforcement & Waste, Blacktown City Council

Rick has had a varied career working in the registered club industry, community capacity building sector, and local government.

Rick has led teams undertaking environmental education, city cleansing, graffiti removal and is currently leading community law enforcement (parkers and rangers) and waste collection at Blacktown Council.

Rick has been an assessor and judge for Keep Australia Beautiful periodically for over 20 years



Hornsby Shire Council exemplifies leadership, innovation, and a deep commitment to community connection and sustainability.

Through creative initiatives and strong partnerships, the Council has developed programs that enhance resilience, inclusivity, and liveability across the region.

The Wisemans Ferry Community Resilience Plan demonstrates forward-thinking climate adaptation, integrating local knowledge and science to prepare for fire and flood risks.

The #SayHighForest campaign captured public imagination with its creative storytelling and high-quality production, inspiring widespread conservation of the ecologically significant High Forest.

Meanwhile, New-Bub Bushcare uniquely combines environmental restoration with social inclusion, engaging new parents in caring for both bushland and community.

Projects such as the Hawkins Hall upgrade and Second-Hand Markets further showcase Hornsby's dedication to circular economy principles, accessibility, and sustainable living.

Collectively, these initiatives reflect a holistic, progressive approach to sustainability - one that strengthens community, protects the environment, and sets a benchmark for liveable, resilient cities.



2025 Overall Finalists



Bayside Council

Bayside Council has made remarkable progress in sustainability and community connection over the past year.

From Growing the Urban Forest and Wild Things to Let's Sort it Bayside, Council is inspiring residents to care for their environment.

Programs like Learn, Fix, Ride and the Resilient Bayside initiative are building inclusion, active living, and climate resilience, while the Young Legends' Green Ripple Effect empowers the next generation.

Together, Bayside is growing a greener, more connected, and sustainable community from the ground up.



Liverpool City Council

Liverpool City Council is driving sustainability, innovation, and community pride through a diverse range of projects.

From mattress shredding and microfactory initiatives advancing the circular economy, to hands-on youth education through the CRC Excursion Program, Liverpool is leading by example.

The restoration of the former courthouse celebrates local heritage, while waste and litter prevention projects at Angle Park and Satyam Ghat protect the environment.

Together, these efforts are shaping a cleaner, smarter, and more sustainable Liverpool.



Penrith City Council

Penrith City Council continues to lead in sustainability and climate action.

Through innovative projects like Recovery on Wheels and the transformative Gipps Street Recreation Precinct, Penrith is supporting community resilience and green urban growth.

The “Less Bins: More Wins” initiative and waste avoidance programs are empowering residents to recycle smarter and reduce waste.

Collectively, these efforts showcase Penrith’s unwavering commitment to creating a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable city for all.



Rob Hitchen **Woollahra**

Rob is a long-time volunteer with Woollahra Council’s HarbourCare and Parsley Bay Bushcare programs, where his dedication to protecting our beaches, bushland, and marine life is truly remarkable.

From cleaning up harbour beaches to rescuing sea creatures and recording local wildlife sightings, Rob’s deep knowledge and passion for the environment inspire all who work with him.

He’s a true local legend and a tireless champion for nature in our city.

Biodiversity Conservation

WINNER



Grow, Restore, Connect Volunteer Project Sutherland Shire Council

Since 1993, the Grow, Restore, Connect program has united volunteers of all ages and abilities to restore native bushland and nurture community spirit.

Participants propagate local plants, remove invasive species, and learn about conservation and horticulture, fostering both environmental and personal growth.

With strong partnerships and a focus on inclusion, the program reconnects people with nature, offering education, employment pathways, and a sense of belonging - regenerating land, community, and lives alike.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Walk on Wangal Nature Trail City of Canada Bay

The Walk on Wangal Nature Trail has transformed a degraded corridor into a vibrant ecological and community space. Stretching from Queen Elizabeth Park to Edwards Park, it features over 3,000 native plants, innovative Woody Meadows, and inclusive Aboriginal storytelling.

With 75 volunteers, 96 residents, and local groups contributing to plantings, habitat creation, and education, the trail now supports pollinators, reptiles, and birds - offering a resilient, accessible, and culturally rich green haven for all.



HIGHLY COMMENDED



Wildlife Protection Areas Lane Cove Council

Lane Cove Council's Wildlife Protection Areas initiative safeguards native wildlife by declaring all 90 hectares of local bushland as protected zones.

Through evidence-based planning, community consultation, and education on responsible pet ownership, the project reduced predation and raised awareness of cat impacts.

The initiative highlights endangered species, embeds protection into strategic plans, and promotes shared responsibility - demonstrating how collaboration and early engagement can create lasting environmental stewardship.

Congratulations to all of the 2025 awards category finalists

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- *Wildlife Protection Areas*
Lane Cove Council
- *Cooling the Schools*
Greening Australia
- *Walk on Wangal Nature Trail*
City of Canada Bay
- *Cumberland Woody Meadow Project*
Cumberland City Council – Environment & Resource Recovery
- *Biodiversity Strategy 2023 to 2033*
Blacktown City Council - Greenspace Services
- *Osprey Nesting Platform in Georges River*
Georges River Council and Georges Riverkeeper
- *Lane Cove Community Nursery*
Lane Cove Council
- *Royal Sydney's Bay Course Project*
The Royal Sydney Golf Club
- *Grow, Restore, Connect Volunteer Project*
Sutherland Shire Council
- *Weeds to Natives Program*
Wollondilly Shire Council
- *Growing the Urban Forest & Wild Things*
Bayside Council
- *Robin Davies Wollondilly Community Nursery*
Wollondilly Shire Council



WINNER



Cumberland Cool Carpark Cumberland City Council

In response to extreme urban heat in Western Sydney, Cumberland City Council partnered with Western Sydney University to create NSW's first Cool Carpark Prototype.

Transforming a hot asphalt area into a green, shaded space, the innovative trellis-and-vine design achieved a 50% surface temperature reduction.

This groundbreaking project demonstrates how smart, nature-based solutions can cool cities, enhance comfort, and inspire sustainable urban design for the future.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Wisemans Ferry Community Resilience Plan Hornsby Shire Council

Following the 2022 floods, Hornsby Shire Council worked hand in hand with the Wisemans Ferry community to strengthen local resilience and recovery.

Funded through the NSW Severe Weather and Flood Grant, the project brought together residents, agencies, and flood response organisations to create a community-led resilience plan.

Developed in 2024, the plan identifies practical actions for preparedness and ongoing recovery, guided by a dedicated community working group ensuring long-term local empowerment and resilience.



WINNER



Mattress Shredding and Recycling

Liverpool City Council -
Circular Economy Team

Liverpool City Council's Mattress Recycling initiative is tackling the growing problem of bulky waste in Western Sydney.

Launched in 2024, the program introduced a state-of-the-art mattress shredder to recover metals and repurpose materials, achieving up to 96% landfill diversion.

In partnership with ResourceCo, UNSW, and Kandui Technologies, the shredded floc is now converted into fuel and innovative products like tiles and benchtops, aiming for 99% diversion.

The project's success showcases leadership in circular economy innovation and collaboration across councils and industry.

Congratulations to all of the 2025 awards category finalists

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Sponsored by



- **Mattress Shredding and Recycling**
Liverpool City Council - Circular Economy Team
- **Microfactory**
Liverpool City Council - Circular Economy Team
- **Buckle Up Recycling Child Car Safety Seats**
Georges River Council
- **Banners to Bags Program**
Cumberland City Council

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

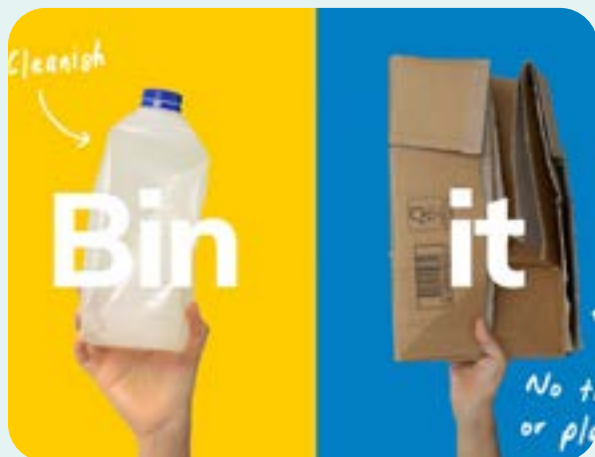
Sponsored by



- **Cumberland Cool Carpark**
Cumberland City Council
- **ROW - Recovery on Wheels**
Penrith City Council and
Hawkesbury City Council
- **Wisemans Ferry Community Resilience Plan**
Hornsby Shire Council

Communication & Engagement

WINNER



“Bin it Right” Campaign Northern Beaches Council

Northern Beaches Council’s six-week “Bin It Right” campaign used behavioural science to boost recycling accuracy and reduce contamination.

Through bold visuals, simple messaging, and a strong call-to-action, the campaign reached over two million people via digital, social, outdoor, and print media.

Supported by competitions, events, and community engagement, “Bin It Right” successfully built residents’ confidence in correct bin use—demonstrating how clear, creative communication can drive meaningful environmental behaviour change.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Georges River Binfluencing Campaign Georges River Council

Georges River Council delivered a dynamic multi-channel communication campaign to support its first new waste collection contract in over a decade.

Through clear print materials, digital outreach, and engagement with strata and commercial properties, residents were well-informed about bin day changes, replacements, and service upgrades.

The campaign achieved high awareness, reduced missed collections, and retrieved over 85% of bins.

This project showcased the power of strategic planning, data-driven communication, and community collaboration in delivering smooth, sustainable service transitions.



HIGHLY COMMENDED



Sustainadilly Workshop Program Wollondilly Shire Council

Wollondilly Shire Council's Sustainadilly Program empowers residents to live more sustainably through free, hands-on workshops and educational resources.

Embedded in Council's sustainability and net zero strategies, the program builds community knowledge, practical skills, and lasting eco-friendly habits.

By fostering collaboration and environmental stewardship, Sustainadilly has become a cornerstone of local sustainability, creating a more resilient, informed, and connected community committed to protecting the environment for future generations.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Next Generation Waste Education Kids Tour City of Newcastle

The Summerhill Kids Tour reimagines waste education for families with young children, addressing key recycling challenges like disposable nappy contamination.

Designed with input from educators, parents, and community members, the interactive program included guided tours, games, and a hands-on garbage truck experience.

Engaging 162 participants across four tours, it reignited interest in waste education and inspired responsible waste habits.

With strong results and community demand, the program is set to expand through ongoing and digital learning initiatives.



WINNER



The Wellbeing Project - My Neighbourhood North West Community Services

The Wellbeing Project – My Neighbourhood brings together community, business, and government to build resilience in flood-affected areas.

Led by North West Community Services and the North West Business Chamber, the initiative created a local flood response group linking residents, agencies, and council.

By fostering trust, collaboration, and place-based connections, the project has strengthened community capacity during disasters and beyond, showcasing a powerful new model for resilience, wellbeing, and sustainable community recovery.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



New-Bub Bushcare Hornsby Shire Council

New-Bub Bushcare is an inspiring program that tackles social isolation among new parents by combining environmental volunteering with free onsite childcare.

Partnering with TAFE NSW and Hornsby Shire Council, parents restore local bushland while trained volunteers from TAFE's Adult Migrant English Program care for their babies nearby.

Launched in 2024, it's already attracted strong community interest, fostering wellbeing, inclusion, and environmental stewardship - all while supporting culturally diverse families to connect, contribute, and thrive together.



WINNER



The 12 Beetles of Christmas Lane Cove Council

Lane Cove Council's 12 Beetles of Christmas reimaged festive celebrations with a uniquely Australian twist - honouring the beloved but declining Christmas Beetle.

The campaign featured 12 public art sculptures created by local and First Nations artists, each celebrating native flora, fauna, and Country.

Supported by citizen science, storytelling, and creative workshops, the program engaged over 1,200 participants.

Blending art, culture, and ecology, this initiative showcased Lane Cove's leadership in inclusive, sustainable, and community-centred celebration.

Congratulations to all of the 2025 awards category finalists

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- *Next Generation Waste Education Kids Tour*
City of Newcastle
- *The Liverpool CRC Excursion Program*
Liverpool City Council - Circular Economy Team
- *Weaving Climate Stories*
Lane Cove Council
- *"Bin it Right" Campaign*
Northern Beaches Council
- *Blacktown Big Ideas Environment Challenge*
Blacktown City Council
- *From Infectious Fails to Five Star Nails*
Blacktown City Council - Environmental Health
- *Youth Week Climate & Biodiversity Forum*
Sutherland Shire Council
- *Lane Cove Seed Library*
Lane Cove Library
- *Let's Sort It Bayside*
Bayside Council
- *Summer Foreshore Program 2024/25*
Bayside Council
- *Georges River Binfluencing Campaign*
Georges River Council
- *Sustainadilly Workshop Program*
Wollondilly Shire Council
- *#SayHighForest*
Hornsby Shire Council

Litter Prevention

Award category
sponsored by:



Clean Communities WINNER



Hawkesbury Litter Prevention Program Hawkesbury City Council

Hawkesbury City Council's Litter Prevention Program builds on the Western Sydney Regional Plan, focusing on long-term, local litter reduction.

Through detailed research, audits, and extensive community engagement, the team developed a Litter Prevention Plan, Roadmap, and Business Case to shift efforts from clean-up to prevention.

This strategic, evidence-based approach strengthens local capacity, aligns regional efforts, and sets the foundation for a cleaner, litter-free Hawkesbury for years to come.

Clean Communities HIGHLY COMMENDED



Tackling Northern Beaches Fishing Litter OzFish and Northern Beaches Council

Northern Beaches Council and OzFish teamed up to tackle fishing litter across 24 beaches and 11 public wharves.

Seven Fishing Tangle Bins were installed at popular spots, collecting 16 kilograms of waste, including 400 hooks, which were recycled through OzFish's Tackle Loop program.

Supported by education, ranger patrols, and community engagement, the project saw strong public support and reduced littering, demonstrating how partnerships and education can protect waterways, wildlife, and local recreation spaces.



Clean Waterways WINNER



Satyam Ghaat - Litter Prevention Liverpool City Council

At Satyam Ghat in Haig Park, the team from Liverpool City Council led a culturally sensitive approach to reducing litter from religious offerings.

Collaborating with Indian and Nepalese communities, faith leaders, and environmental officers, they co-designed respectful, sustainable alternatives that honour tradition while protecting the waterway.

The initiative built trust, raised awareness, and laid the foundation for long-term behavioural change, showcasing how inclusion and dialogue can achieve both cultural respect and environmental care.

Congratulations to all of the 2025 awards category finalists

COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND INCLUSION

- *BCC Bushcare and Nursery Volunteer Program*
Blacktown City Council -
Greenspace Services
- *Bidwill Reserve Advocacy*
Bidwill Uniting
- *Mana and Kaimana*
Blacktown City Council -
Emerton Youth Recreation Centre
- *The Wellbeing Project - My Neighbourhood*
North West Community Services
- *Learn, Fix, Ride!*
Bayside Council
- *New-Bub Bushcare*
Hornsby Shire Council
- *Only About Children Childcare Relocation*
Randwick City Council

HERITAGE AND CULTURE

- *Former Liverpool Courthouse Restoration*
Liverpool City Council
- *The 12 Beetles of Christmas*
Lane Cove Council
- *The Naming of Things Yarning Circles*
Blacktown Arts and Uncle Chris Tobin

Liveable Cities

WINNER



Gipps Street Recreation Precinct Penrith City Council

Penrith City Council transformed a disused waste facility into the vibrant Gipps Street Recreation Precinct.

Featuring sports fields, playspaces, a youth zone, skate park, and dog park, the site now welcomes thousands each week.

Through innovation, collaboration, and careful planning, this first-of-its-kind project turned a challenge into an opportunity, enhancing local recreation, biodiversity, and Penrith's reputation as one of Western Sydney's most liveable communities.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Philimona Gardens Liverpool City Council and Phillips Marler

Following a 2017 review revealing a shortage of public open space in Liverpool's CBD, Liverpool City Council transformed a partially demolished heritage site at 13 Bigge Street into Philimona Gardens, a serene green space honouring the site's history.

Once a Californian bungalow, it's now a beautiful garden offering residents much-needed green space for rest and recreation.

This adaptive reuse project celebrates heritage, improves liveability, and delivers a lasting community asset for generations to enjoy.



HIGHLY COMMENDED



Empowering Women and CALD Communities City of Parramatta

City of Parramatta's CALD Transport and Women's Cycling Programs break down cultural, language and gender-based barriers to active transport.

In partnership with Transport for NSW and community groups, over 80 women gained confidence through multilingual, culturally inclusive cycling education.

The initiative promotes safety, freedom, and long-term behaviour change, empowering women to move confidently and helping build a more connected, inclusive, and liveable city for all.

Congratulations to all of the 2025 awards category finalists

LITTER PREVENTION

Sponsored by



- **Hawkesbury Litter Prevention Program**
Hawkesbury City Council
- **Tackling Northern Beaches Fishing Litter**
OzFish and Northern Beaches Council
- **Satyam Ghaat - Litter Prevention**
Liverpool City Council

LIVEABLE CITIES

- **Philimona Gardens**
Liverpool City Council and Phillips Marler
- **Gipps Street Recreation Precinct**
Penrith City Council
- **Hawkins Hall Community Centre Upgrade**
Hornsby Shire Council
- **Resilient Bayside**
Bayside Council
- **Empowering Women and CALD Communities**
City of Parramatta

PLASTIC FREE COMMUNITIES

- **Randwick's Eco Living Festival**
Randwick City Council - Sustainability



JOINT WINNER



Less Bins, More Wins: Waste Revitalisation Penrith City Council

Penrith City Council's "Less Bins, More Wins" project redefined workplace sustainability through smarter waste management.

Replacing 468 under-desk bins with 28 communal sorting stations, supported by training and staff-led innovation, the program reduced contamination and waste.

Thousands of plastic liners were avoided, 127kg of textiles and 7,000 coffee cups recycled, and specialty recycling streams introduced.

JOINT WINNER



Solved! Public Place Recycling Sutherland Shire Council

Sutherland Shire Council delivered an innovative public place recycling system using Container Deposit Scheme baskets.

After a successful 12-month trial, the model achieved high community uptake and low contamination rates.

Seamlessly integrated into existing infrastructure, it now provides an effective, sustainable, and community-driven recycling solution, proving that local collaboration and smart design can deliver big environmental wins.

Plastic Free Communities



WINNER



Randwick's Eco Living Festival

Randwick City Council - Sustainability

Randwick City Council's Eco Living Festival partnered with Maroubra Beach Markets to engage new audiences and boost attendance by 150%.

The event trialled reusable cups, introduced waste diversion systems, and offered fun, interactive experiences.

This fresh, inclusive approach created a model for embedding sustainability into major community events, driving real behavioural change and inspiring everyday action toward a plastic-free future.

Congratulations to all of the 2025 awards category finalists

RESOURCE RECOVERY

- *Less Bins, More Wins: Waste Revitalisation*
Penrith City Council
- *Solved! Public Place Recycling*
Sutherland Shire Council

WASTE AVOIDANCE

- *Project Less to Landfill*
Wheeler Heights Public School Sustainability Program
- *Second-Hand Markets: Circularity in Action*
Hornsby Shire Council
- *Angle Park Beach Access and Remediation*
Liverpool City Council
- *Creating Sustainable Cities*
Auburn Hospital Sustainability Team
- *ReVIVE and ReCYCLE*
Penrith City Council
- *'Crook'ed Waste*
Kaye & Andrew Crook
- *How Low Can You Go?*
Sutherland Shire Council



WINNER



Creating Sustainable Cities

Auburn Hospital
Sustainability Team

The Auburn Hospital Sustainability Team began nearly 20 years ago with a simple can recycling project—and grew into a movement.

Driven by passionate hospital cleaners, their innovation turned waste management into a culture of sustainability.

Through persistence and creativity, they are reducing waste, inspiring staff and setting a gold standard in sustainable healthcare, proving that small acts of leadership can create extraordinary, lasting change.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Second-Hand Markets: Circularity in Action

Hornsby Shire Council

Hornsby Shire Council's Second-Hand Hornsby Reuse Markets bring circular economy principles to life.

With over 160 stallholders and 5,000 visitors, the markets have kept 3,600 items and \$24,000 circulating locally.

Expanding from digital garage sales to live reuse markets, clothing swaps, and repair workshops, the program builds community connection, reduces waste, and celebrates reuse as both an environmental and social success.



WINNER



Adopt a Beach Program

Surfrider Foundation
Northern Beaches

Surfrider Foundation's Adopt A Beach program unites community members, businesses, and councils to combat coastal pollution across Sydney's Northern Beaches.

Through structured monthly clean-ups at nine beach locations, hundreds of volunteers are tackling marine litter head-on.

The program builds awareness, collects valuable data, and strengthens local stewardship - showcasing the power of community action to protect our oceans and preserve beach health for future generations.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Healthy Waterways Multicultural Workshop

Advanced Diversity Services &
Georges River Council

This inspiring partnership between Advanced Diversity Services and Georges River Council connected culturally diverse communities with local waterways.

Through multilingual workshops, guided clean-ups, and shared meals, participants learned about pollution prevention and environmental care.

Overcoming barriers of language and access, the project built environmental awareness, empowered community action, and inspired participants to lead their own sustainability initiatives, creating ripple effects of positive change.

Young Legends

WINNER



The Green Ripple Effect Bayside Council

At Mascot Child Care Centre, The Green Ripple Effect has turned a Council Upcycling competition win into a movement for everyday sustainability.

Partnering with parents, Council, Men's Shed, and Indigenous cultural groups, the centre created gardens, compost systems, native habitats, and a street library, all while embedding eco-friendly practices in children's daily routines.

This hands-on approach is nurturing the next generation of environmental stewards, one green step at a time.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Jannali Public School Green Team Jannali Public School

Jannali Public School's Green Team has reduced landfill waste through hands-on student action.

By introducing clearly labelled recycling, compost, and "Return and Earn" bins across classrooms and playgrounds, students take the lead in sorting materials and learning about sustainability.

Their efforts have built strong environmental awareness, improved recycling habits, and significantly reduced rubbish going to landfill - proving that even small hands can make a big difference.



Congratulations to all of the 2025 awards category finalists

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Project Less to Landfill

Wheeler Heights Public School Sustainability Program

Wheeler Heights Public School's Project Less to Landfill turns community waste into valuable sustainability resources.

Partnering with local businesses, students collect coffee grounds, fruit scraps, spent flowers, and mushroom blocks to feed compost, worm farms, and fundraising gardens.

Supported by teachers, volunteers, and local partners, the initiative reduces waste, builds environmental responsibility, and demonstrates the power of collaboration, transforming landfill-bound items into learning, growth, and green innovation.

WATERWAYS AND MARINE PROTECTION

- *Healthy Waterways Multicultural Workshop*
Advanced Diversity Services & Georges River Council
- *Adopt a Beach Program*
Surfrider Foundation Northern Beaches

YOUNG LEGENDS

- *Project Less to Landfill*
Wheeler Heights Public School
Sustainability Program
- *The Green Ripple Effect*
Bayside Council
- *Jannali Public School Green Team*
Jannali Public School



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