



# Sustainable Cities Awards 2022



Thank you to our  
awards supporters



## **Keep Australia Beautiful NSW**

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Newtown NSW 2042  
[www.kabnsw.org.au](http://www.kabnsw.org.au)

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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: 2022 Overall Sustainable Cities Award Winner - Randwick City Council



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## About KAB NSW

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KAB NSW) are the leaders in transforming behaviour to create a less littered and more environmentally sustainable New South Wales.

With a legacy of successful community engagement since 1975, our programs inspire individuals, students, organisations, businesses and government to actively care for their local environment.

Our flagship Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns and Sustainable Cities awards programs have been running since 1981. They encourage, recognise and reward local communities, councils, businesses and schools for their outstanding efforts to reduce litter, increase recycling and beautify and improve their local environment.

Our Annual Litter Congress is Australia's only dedicated litter conference that shares successful projects, research, knowledge and best practice in area of litter prevention, management and anti-littering strategies.

Our hugely popular EnviroMentors® sustainability education service is a mobile service to schools, reaching every corner of NSW and covering a full suite of environmental modules.

KAB NSW is an apolitical organisation – we are not activists, we work in partnership with local and state governments, industry, schools and the community to protect and improve our state environment.

We work closely with the NSW Government and partner with them on a range of programs to connect with communities across NSW at a grass-roots level.

Every year the NSW Premier hosts an annual charity dinner for KAB NSW which brings together business, local government, corporates, community groups and industry.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
SYDNEY

Message from

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC  
Governor of New South Wales  
and Mr Dennis Wilson**

Creating sustainable and beautiful environments has been the mission of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW for the past 47 years. Throughout its history, in partnership with governments, councils, businesses, organisations, schools and local communities, it has consistently been a powerful catalyst for transformative behavioural change.

The flagship programs - *Sustainable Cities* and *Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns* - have been instrumental in engaging individuals, organisations and students in a wide range of initiatives to reduce litter and waste, reduce energy use and recycle resources.

While there is always more that can be done, Keep Australia Beautiful NSW and NSW communities can take heart that the standard of this year's entries is among the highest ever received. It is also noteworthy that efforts have not stopped with the Award presentations - entrants are undertaking programs of continuous improvement to practices, processes and technologies.

Wherever we are across our State, our natural and built environments are as important to our mental and spiritual well-being as they are to our physical health and that of our planet.

Thank you, Keep Australia Beautiful NSW and supporters and sponsors for inspiring us to create NSW communities and environments that are clean, green, engaging and beautiful places to live.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margaret Beazley".

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC  
Governor of New South Wales**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis Wilson".

**Mr Dennis Wilson**



# Message from the CEO

The Sustainable Cities Awards Program celebrates and encourages councils and communities that are pioneering the path towards a sustainable future. Projects that not only enhance the environment but improve the standard of living and well-being of urban communities have been a hallmark of the activities that have been recognised through this program since 1994.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic over the last two years have been wide reaching. Where normally we spread our waste into bins at our local café or restaurant, streets, parks, and workplaces, being confined to our homes concentrated our weekly waste in two or three bins. For many, watching our waste pile up was confronting. But true to our city's spirit, this dose of reality has given us a renewed awareness of our waste footprint. The Resource Recovery and Waste Minimisation category received the most project entries in 2022 and it has been inspiring to see how our community is tackling today's environmental issues.

The issues we face are evolving. 2022 has seen widespread and devastating flooding and an eye-opening State of the Environment Report. But knowing just how responsive our Sustainable Cities community is, I look forward to receiving entries in 2023 aimed at climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity loss prevention, and empowering Indigenous communities and enabling Indigenous knowledge systems to improve environmental and social outcomes for us all.

On behalf of KAB NSW, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the judging panel for their commitment to the unenviable task of selecting the winners, and congratulate all who are profiled here for their inspirational work.



Val Southam  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Keep Australia Beautiful NSW**

**Thank you to our awards program  
and event supporters**



# About the Sustainable Cities Awards

The Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KABNSW) Sustainable Cities Awards Program has been recognising and rewarding projects and actions in NSW since 1994 for metropolitan Sydney Councils, community groups, businesses, schools and individuals. The awards recognise projects that not only enhance the environment but improve the visual amenity and well-being of urban communities.

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.



## FURTHER INFORMATION + CONTACTS

For further information on how to enter and award submissions go to <https://www.kabnsw.org.au/sustainable-cities/>

Alternatively, please contact Keep Australia Beautiful NSW on E: [awards@kabnsw.org.au](mailto:awards@kabnsw.org.au) or T: 02 8594 4000

# AWARDS CATEGORIES



## Resource Recovery and Waste Minimisation Award

The Resource Recovery and Waste Management Award (*sponsored by the NSW EPA*) is for a project or program that tackles a range of waste and recycling problems through waste minimisation and reduction; effective and innovative waste and recycling programs or incentivising behaviour change.



## Litter Prevention Award

The Litter Prevention Award (*sponsored by the NSW EPA*) is for a project or program that reduces or prevents litter. This could involve behaviour change techniques, the creation of partnerships or networks or the development of effective infrastructure and place design.



## Circular Economy Award

The Circular Economy Award is for 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.



## Heritage and Culture Award

The Heritage and Culture Award is for community projects that enhance and protect our unique, and built heritage, including celebration of a region's heritage.



## Recycled Organics Award

The Recycled Organics Award is for projects and programs that minimise the loss of organics to landfill and supports the community to avoid, reduce and recycle organics.



## Renewable Energy Award

The Renewable Energy Award is for progress and achievements in developing products or services associated with renewable energy.



### Communication and Engagement Award

The Communication & Engagement Award is for programs and projects that inspire environmental action, through raising awareness, developing and building partnerships to share resources and creation of spaces and places for environmental education.



### Community Spirit and Inclusion Award

The Community Spirit and Inclusion Award recognises communities successfully addressing challenges through proper planning, community partnerships and real outcomes. This award is given to communities that refuse to 'give in'.



### Habitat and Wildlife Conservation Award

The Habitat and Wildlife Conservation Award is for projects which create, restore and sustain biodiversity of our native flora and fauna in urban environments, creating wildlife corridors and encouraging habitat conservation.



### Waterways and Marine Protection Award

The Waterways & Marine Protection Award *(incorporating Clean Beaches)* is for programs and actions that create, restore and enhance our natural waterways and beaches by advocating for coast and waterway protection, encouraging community participation in the protection of waterways and beaches and sustainable management of water resources.



### Young Legend's Award

The Young Legend's Award recognises individuals or groups of people 25 years and under who demonstrate outstanding commitment to their environment and show leadership in pursuing environmental outcomes.



### Overall Sustainable Cities Award

The Overall Award is presented to a metropolitan local government area within Greater Sydney that has successfully undertaken projects or actions in multiple areas of environmental sustainability and social inclusion.

# AWARDS JUDGES & 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 almost 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.



**Ana Corpuz**

Senior Policy Officer, Development  
Water Infrastructure NSW, DPE

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

Her areas of expertise include 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.



**Dr Maryam Esfandbod**

Manager, Business Development  
& Global, CSIRO

Maryam is a Soil Biochemist with strong expertise and experience on remediation of contaminated sites, waste management and organic waste recycling. She plays a key role in linking key Australian industries in agriculture, recycling and environmental remediation to researchers and establishing long-term mutually beneficial relationships.

In addition to university research management and strategy development, Maryam's multi-sectoral career has also spanned applied research, public sector policy and investment roles.



**Layla McNeil**

Waste and Resource Recovery  
Coordinator, CSIRO

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 management curriculum in schools. He has been a Tidy Towns judge and assessor for over 15 years and a great supporter of Keep Australia Beautiful.



**Tasneem Rangwala**

Consultant and Project Manager,  
Jackson Environment & Planning

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.



### Matthew 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, he works as HR Manager for a leading environmental consultancy as well as recently setting up his own HR consultancy to support small to medium sized businesses.

Matthew lives in Newcastle, NSW and enjoys competitive road cycling in his spare time.



### 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

Road Safety Education Officer, Upper Hunter Shire Council, Publisher - Surfing Roadies & Yahoo! Surf Awareness School

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).



### Kristen Tola

Heritage Consultant, RPS Group

Kristen Tola is a heritage professional working in the commercial industry with a focus on Aboriginal and historical heritage.

She has worked in local government, cultural institutions and museums and combines her administrative experience in client services and financial management with cultural heritage and archaeological reporting.

Qualified in Cultural Heritage and Museums Studies (Heritage Practice) and archaeology, she understands place heritage, conservation management, significance, interpretation, and heritage planning.



### Richard Wiezel

Senior Coordinator City Image, Blacktown City Council

Rick has had a varied career in the registered club industry, community development sector and local government. Rick currently leads Blacktown City Councils public place cleansing programs, street cleaning and graffiti removal teams and works in partnership with colleagues and agencies to deliver major street art and public place improvement projects. Rick lives in the Lower Blue Mountains with his family and enjoys playing guitar, golf and volunteering for Keep Australia Beautiful and junior rugby league.

# 2022 Overall Winner

## RANDWICK CITY COUNCIL

Randwick City comprises of 13 suburbs in an area of 37 square kilometres bounded by the Pacific Ocean in the east and historic Botany Bay in the south.

Located eight kilometres from Sydney CBD, the area features many popular swimming beaches and is home to a large and thriving Indigenous community.

In 2022, Randwick excelled, bringing together a superior suite of long- and short-term programs and impressive and innovative initiatives. Randwick has very effectively showcased sustainability programs developed and implemented over several years, culminating in being acknowledged as the leader in sustainability across the greater Sydney region.

A well developed and popular program offering financial rebates across a dozen sustainability focused activities offers residents significant opportunities to contribute to focused sustainable outcomes in economically beneficial and climate positive ways. As well as composting programs and water saving rebates, the most popular and sustainable rebates encourage residents to install solar power, solar storage batteries and electric vehicle charging points.

Randwick has a very vibrant, committed and dynamic volunteer community which works across a diverse range of sustainability initiatives. A special focus is greening the area and programs across composting, revegetation, critical habit management, wetlands and waterways as well as community education across many sustainability projects.

Randwick Council excels as leaders by example, showcasing in real terms and in practical ways the benefits of a sustainability focused choices and lifestyle which the community is encouraged to adopt. Education, example, promotion and outreach are hallmarks of this Council and are but a few of many ways that makes Randwick Council an outstanding Sustainable City.



# 2022 Overall Finalists



## Bayside Council

Bayside Council has again met the sustainability challenge with several new and innovative programs.

The Council has demonstrated its commitment to enhancing sustainability across its operations, a widespread adoption of more circular practices, wildlife and habitat conservation and illegal dumping minimisation.

Bayside Council continues to support residents with a diverse array of programs that encourage, enable and empower them to live sustainably and in balance with their natural surrounds.

Joe Logiacco, Manager Waste & Cleansing Services Bayside Council, received a special commendation for his unfailing commitment to continually striving for better sustainability outcomes for Bayside Council.

He has been a stalwart supporter of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW for many years and we hope he will continue to be for many more to come.



## Georges River Council

Council's focus on biodiversity and ecological sustainability are a highlight of Council's activities this year, like the innovative Wildlife Protection Program (WPA) focused on developing an enhancing specific protection areas.

Council's most outstanding sustainability focused project is its excellent Beyond 100% Renewable Energy project designed to look beyond Council's recent achievement of reaching its target of sourcing 100% renewable energy for Council operations three years earlier than the set date of 2025.

The Poulton Park Naturalisation project – once a Council landfill – is now predominantly a major sporting facility with a special biodiversity precinct.

Overall, George's River Council has a dynamic, creative and innovative approach to sustainability across the LGA and are commended for their excellent work.

# 2022 Overall Finalists



## Penrith City Council

Penrith City Council's sustainability focus and innovative programs encompass a diverse range of creative and effective activities and events, focused on engagement across all demographics.

Tied with Council's excellent approach and initiatives for composting, worm farming and recycling organics, Penrith Council is a leader in sustainability at the local and regional level.

Council has very effectively engaged with community through excellent broad social media outreach and virtual experience options.

Of special mention is Council's dynamic and innovative response to riverbank habitat issues with the excellent cooperative resnagging fish habitat restoration program along the Nepean River and its tributaries. An innovative program that's already showing excellent results.

# Litter Prevention



Award category sponsored by:



## JOINT WINNER



### Would you like litter with that?

Blacktown City Council

In 2018, Blacktown City was recorded as having the highest density of fast-food outlets per capita outside of Sydney metropolitan area. The environmental impact of this was littered sites and anti-social behaviour.

'Would you like litter with that?' was developed to improve litter education, littering behaviour, site management and reduce fast food packaging litter. The Council targeted food outlets, arterial roads and high litter locations such as worksites.

By partnering with external and internal stakeholders including fast food outlets, Bunnings and, the project involved strategic signage placement, social media education, litter enforcement and engagement with stakeholders including outlets, customers and local builders and tradespeople.

The project achieved an overall 45% reduction in litter volume for fast food outlets, engagement with over 200 builders and tradespeople and a social media reach of 86,000 people sharing information to the wider community.

## JOINT WINNER



### SBK Sydney Harbour Conservation Project

Sydney by Kayak

SBK aims to be an ecotourism business with a zero waste, carbon-positive footprint that provides a five-star customer experience.

Seeing the plastic pollution first hand whilst kayaking on Sydney Harbour, SBK made it their mission to make a difference – Clean-up Paddles was born.

Since 2018, they have pledged to contribute \$15 from ever clean-up seat sold to a conservation fund, helping local conservation initiatives in Sydney Harbour. To date, SBK have raised \$29,950.

Today, Clean-up paddle operates five times a week, collecting rubbish from Sydney Harbour. At the end of June 2022, SBK had collected just over 600kg of rubbish. Additionally, their funded Seabin in Darling Harbour collected around seven tonnes of plastic this year.

SBK have also invested in a new joint venture with Ecobel Sydney – 'The Great White', a large, solar powered rubbish collection unit. They hope to continue their clean-ups, spreading the initiative to other waterways.

## CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

# Resource Recovery & Waste Minimisation

Award category  
sponsored by:



## WINNER



### **Pathway to Zero Waste** City of Canada Bay Council

City of Canada Bay is rapidly transforming to higher density living. The proportion of residents living in apartments and units has increased from 37% in 2006 to over 50% in 2021, and this trend will continue with population forecast to grow by 25,000 over the next 15 years.

Higher density living presents specific challenges for waste and resource recovery with generally higher contamination and lower recycling rates, and higher turnover of residential units, which can lead to illegal dumping when tenants move.

City of Canada Bay's first Resource Recovery and Waste Strategy, adopted in July 2021, sets the pathway toward zero waste. Strategy objectives and actions were developed through an extensive consultation process and were aligned under the following goals:

1. Less waste to landfill and reduced greenhouse gas emissions
2. Recycle and reuse more
3. Continuously improve our services to meet community needs
4. Reduce litter and illegal dumping
5. Lead by example in Council

In the first year on the pathway to zero waste, Council implemented several projects based on previous pilots and trialled new programs to meet these goals.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED



### **Wollondilly Moving to Zero Waste Events**

#### Wollondilly Shire Council

Wollondilly Shire Council has commenced its transition to zero waste events by aiming to divert as much landfill as possible at the last two largest Council events: Illuminate Festival and Festival of Steam, which see approximately 20,000 attendees.

At the most recent event – the Festival of Steam – Council achieved an 84% diversion rate from landfill. This proved that it was entirely possible to transition to zero waste events and at the same time, educate the public on waste avoidance, recycling and reuse.

To make this happen Council partnered with social enterprise Green Connect Illawarra who are experienced in sustainable waste management and create employment opportunities for young people and people from a refugee background.

Council will take the learnings and data collected from these events to continually improve its waste management practices into the future and lead by example in minimising waste to landfill.



## HIGHLY COMMENDED



### **MediDivert: Lifesaving not Landfilling**

#### MediDivert

Medical waste disposal is one of the biggest challenges facing the environment. MediDivert, operated solely by volunteers, addressed this issue by changing the way hospitals and medical companies deal with waste and at the same time benefit native wildlife.

MediDivert procures unused medical goods destined for landfill and redeploys them to wildlife organisations, sanctuaries, carers and vets that treat wildlife free of charge.

Since May 2019, in partnership with Sydney Wildlife Rescue, over three tonnes of goods have been saved from landfill and over 1000 litres of fluids saved from the drain. This helped save the lives of native animals during the 2019/2020 Black Summer Bushfires.

There is enormous scope for this style of partnership to be rolled out across Australia with animal welfare organisations 'adopting' their local hospital.



## WINNER



### Recycled Glass in Road Base & Sub-base

Canterbury Bankstown City Council

The City of Canterbury Bankstown receives approximately 8,000 tonnes of glass per year from collections. Whole glass bottles are easy to recycle but recycling small glass pieces is a challenge.

Council identified the potential to reuse recycled crushed glass in granular base and sub-base materials in roads construction to avoid glass wastage and achieve a cost-effective option providing sustainable outcomes for the community and contributing towards circular economy.

Council engaged Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) and Fulton Hogan as a sub-contractor.

This project was a first in Australia to use glass in sub-base with improved gradation resulting in easier compaction and improved permanent deformation resistance. Council undertook performance monitoring to assess long-term suitability with no cracking or rutting found on trial sections.

With an additional sustainability benefit, the project uses another recycled material – crushed – concrete as a preferred granular sub-base material.

The project was partially funded by the NSW EPA under the Civil Construction Market Program.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED



### New Life for Old Rides Revolve ReCYCLING

New Life for Old Rides is an initiative to recover, recycle and/or redeploy 'end-of-life' Personal Transport Vehicles (PTVs) in Sydney.

It is estimated that there are more than 50,000 PTVs (bicycles, e-bikes, scooters, e-scooters) that reach their first 'end-of-life' every year in greater Sydney.

Revolve ReCYCLING was founded in 2021 to ensure that PTVs do not go to landfill but are reconditioned, recycled and re-used whenever possible. If not, they are donated to kids in need and create sustainable jobs for people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Thus far, the initiative has diverted 40 tonnes of material from landfill; recycled or redeployed approximately 3,000 bicycles and other PTVs; saved around 40,000 kilograms of greenhouse gases; created four part-time roles for people of disadvantage; and contributed more than 100 free bikes to kids including Ukrainian refugee kids.

# Communication & Engagement



## WINNER



### Seabin Sydney City Program Seabin Foundation

There are currently 30 Seabins in the Sydney Harbour that are emptied daily by the Seabin Enviro Technicians, with weekly samples delivered to the Ocean Health Data Lab and analysed.

Seabin Foundation's communication to the broader community brings forth the relationship between clean-up of marine debris/plastics, litter prevention and data monitoring. It does so by raising awareness of the macro and microplastics challenges and of the collective effort that is required to address the problem.

The broad reach of Seabin Foundation's activities engages and connects different stakeholders and age groups, public and private institutions, schools, and groups.

Reporting on data is another form of communication delivered by the Seabin Project to inform decision-making within many layers of the community ranging from citizen science volunteer network to corporate sponsors and increasingly, public authorities.

As a fast-paced start-up, the Seabin Foundation constantly adjusts its activities to increase data accuracy based on what they learn, from the technology, the deliverables to sponsors and data protocols.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED



### Community Circular Economy Waste Survey

#### Bayside Council

In 2018, Bayside Council was awarded a Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Circular Economy Award for their Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030. Since then, waste industry conditions have significantly changed. To remain at the forefront and lead by example, Council is planning an ambitious circular economy strategy whose success hinges on early community engagement.

Bayside Council conducted a sophisticated series of online waste surveys prior to considering changes to waste services that optimise waste avoidance and resource recovery strategies, as well as value for money. Bayside is committed to providing the most convenient, economic and environmentally sustainable services to the community.

Many options are being evaluated, and Council wanted to know what residents thought of current provided services, as well as proposals for the future. The successful surveys attracted over 1,400 respondents that provided valuable information that will help inform Council's future circular economy initiatives and services.

# Community Spirit & Inclusion



## WINNER



### **COVID-19 Safe Events Program**

Georges River Council –  
Community and Culture  
Directorate

The COVID-19 Safe Event Program 2021 was an initiative created as a response to restrictions imposed by COVID-19 to support the delivery of COVID-19 safe, small events that connected community to their local town centres across the Georges River area, reduced community isolation and supported the local economy.

Council delivered a suite of events including Youth Month, Eurovision Live Broadcast event, Un[contained] Art Festival Kogarah, Frightful 80s Halloween Drive-In and the Christmas Night Markets between January and December 2021.

The COVID-19 Safe Events Program 2021 aligned with Phase 2 of Council's adopted Economic and Social Recovery Program – the 'Revival' Phase. It is a flexible program with scalable events that could be adapted to NSW Public Health Orders and relevant COVID-19-Safety Plans.

This ensured that the program could continue with minor interruptions or delays during increased restrictions on public gatherings; or if restrictions eased, the program could be adapted to allow larger numbers of attendees.

# Habitat & Wildlife Conservation



## WINNER



### **Fish Habitat Restoration - Resnagging**

Penrith City Council

Council and local land managers identified issues of habitat degradation and loss associated with cleared riverbanks due to historical snagging. Although snagging has provided long-term benefits for the agricultural industry, it has proved devastating to the local natural habitat by exposing large areas of riverbank which are susceptible to subsiding during flood events and high level of saturation.

The first project of its kind undertaken by Council, the Fish Habitat Restoration project was a dual-site project focused on restoring native fish habitat along the Nepean River through the introduction of coarse woody debris back into the river system to provide important structural components necessary for the growth and restoration of habitat.

These wood surfaces will provide the foundations of the food web that supports many macro-invertebrates for native fish species, creating a direct aquatic ecosystem benefit by improving species diversity.

Council partnered with Soil Conservation Service for their experience in resnagging fish habitat and restoring river systems, and Transport for NSW for their contribution of natural material waste from the Northern Road Upgrade.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED



### **Biodiversity Corridor Preservation**

Bayside Council

Teaming up with community organisations, State Government and volunteers, Bayside Council enriches the local biodiversity through active programs of vegetation management, waterways maintenance and beautification of the Crown Land parcel of Scarborough Park, of which they are custodians.

It is Council's mission to enrich and preserve the area for future generations by holistically managing the area.

Given its value as a key habitat for fish, endangered species such as the Green and Golden Bell Frog, and the Park's high vegetation conservation significance, Bayside Council's approach to conservation ensures longevity through community involvement that builds a sense of ownership and acknowledgement of areas value.

This project is a work in progress which teaches us that change can be enacted with a focus that is driven by the desire to make a positive difference.

# Heritage & Culture



## WINNER



### Heritage Festival & Gai-Mariagal Events

Ku-ring-gai Council

The concept for the Ku-ring-gai Heritage Festival arose from an aspiration to connect the Ku-ring-gai community with the historical stories of its area and showcase the unique elements of its built, natural, cultural and Indigenous heritage.

Incorporating a selection of successful events from 2021, the Ku-ring-gai Events Team created a Festival that featured 17 events across the LGA, including eight new events that allowed interesting heritage and cultural places, organisations and experiences within the area to be highlighted and enjoyed by the community.

With many new and returning event partners in 2022, and a strengthened collaborative process between Council, partners and organisations, ensured a high level of success in preserving and honouring significant local history, heritage and culture.

# Renewable Energy



## WINNER



### Sustainability Rebates for our Community

Randwick City Council

Randwick Council's community strategic plan commits Council on behalf of its community to a wide-ranging set of sustainability outcomes and goals.

Randwick's Sustainability Rebates for residents and businesses are providing financial incentives for households and businesses to install energy and water saving measures aimed at reducing consumption, energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

Randwick's Sustainability Rebates are amongst the most comprehensive of any local government in Australia, incentivising 12 separate energy and water saving products and measures ranging from rooftop solar, battery storage, electric vehicle chargers, LED changeovers, efficient swimming pool pumps and much more.

Each rebate dollar leverages more than \$11 of new investment and as of 30 June 2022, just under 600 rebates totalling \$300,000 have enabled \$3.4 million of new energy and water saving investment across the community, generating bill savings of \$675,000 and reducing emissions by 4,000 tonnes annually.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED



### Lane Cove - Leading the Way

Lane Cove Council

In 2019, Lane Cove Council identified the need to declare a climate emergency and committed to long term energy emission and water use targets.

From adopting its first Climate Resilience Plan to speeding up EV station charging times with the installation of NSW's first fast charger through the assistance of the Federal Government's Future Fuels Fund, Council is accelerating the community's ability to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.

Lane Cove has been leading the way by example by sourcing 100% renewable energy, installing solar PV and batteries, saving more than 80% on streetlight power and delivering events and programs to bring residents on the transition journey to renewable energy and emissions reduction.

Council's strategy is to lead by example and in turn help empower residents to consider their own actions to reduce emissions and become more resilient.

## CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

# Recycled Organics

## WINNER



### **Baby Steps with a Big Impact** Penrith City Council

Identifying the need to transition towards a Circular Economy (CE), Council's Waste and Resource Recovery (WARR) team saw an opportunity through Council's owned and operated Childcare Centres on the Three-bin FOGO service, to educate the future of Penrith about the benefits of the FOGO CE, acknowledging that early adoption plays a significant part in establishing lifelong, sustainable behavioural practices.

The WARR Team developed a resource, 'The Binz Adventures guide' to assist educators and guardians in explaining CE within the 3-bin FOGO system.

Learned CE concepts were reinforced through hands-on, experiential planting lessons that provided tangible examples of what happens to organic waste after it's placed in the FOGO bin, recognising the importance of making real-world connections. Both educators and guardians acknowledged an improvement in children's sorting behaviours.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED



### **Composting and Worm Farming**

#### Regentville Public School: School Kitchen Gardens

With 690 students attending Regentville Public School, an enormous amount of waste – both organic and inorganic – was being placed in the garbage bins.

The school community decided to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by turning organic scraps into compost and food for worms.

The School Kitchen Garden/Environmental Education program taught at Regentville Public School introduced small bins for each classroom where daily 'crunch & sip scraps' were collected by students and placed in five compost bins and four worm farms.

Additionally, students gathered and emptied bins provided for the collection of cans and bottles that were returned to be recycled, with money earned being directed back to the School Kitchen Garden for materials and plants.

The implementation of both worm farming and composting at the school and the enthusiasm from all the students, staff and parents participating has ignited a sense of excitement and a real purpose. The students have gained the feeling of being part of something 'bigger' and something important, and crucial for a healthier life, community and world around them.



## HIGHLY COMMENDED



### **Woollahra Council - Kitchen to Compost**

#### Woollahra Council

In 2008, Woollahra Council commenced a FOGO service called 'Kitchen to Compost', which was plagued with issues relating to processor availability and licensing constraints.

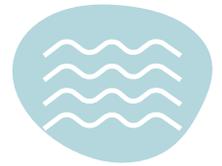
In 2021, Council in partnership with its processor VEOLIA set out to improve recovery and reinvigorate community support and participation for the 'Kitchen to Compost' FOGO service. This was done by launching a refreshed education and awareness campaign with the provision of opt in kitchen caddies and compostable bags.

Council also contributed in-kind funding to run a schools' truck art competition which saw local schools participate in creating artworks for the garbage trucks depicting Council's tagline: "Create Compost, Not Landfill".

The aim was to provide consistent community engagement and complimentary resources to improve awareness, acceptance and success of the service. The results were very encouraging, with Council's audit showing an increase of overall food organics recovery going from approximately 5% to 22.9%.

The project demonstrated that residents were keen to participate when they had appropriate awareness and resources to do so.

# Waterways & Marine Protection



## WINNER



### Seabin Foundation Ocean Health Lab

Seabin Foundation

Seven years ago, the idea of the Seabin technology was born out of a desire to clean up the oceans from rubbish.

Today, the Seabin Foundation Ocean Health Lab uses 30+ Seabin units catches from around the Sydney Harbour to gather weekly data, having as main objectives to advance the science of marine pollution through reporting, and to engage with communities as an exhibition of the Australian National Maritime Museum (Darling Harbour).

The Ocean Health Lab is a 40-foot repurposed shipping container into a self-sufficient solar powered microplastics laboratory, offering freezer storage, dehydrator, office space, ocean themed indigenous art and external educational signage.

The Ocean Health Lab is managed by two full time scientists who, since June 2022, are dedicated to extracting key data about marine pollution, already identifying specific issues such as influx of polystyrene, nurdles, synthetic grass, fireworks, food packaging and fishing lines.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED



### Harbourcare, Streamwatch & Waterbugs

Open Space and Urban Services  
- Lane Cove Council

The Harbourcare, Streamwatch and Waterbug programs all actively advocate protection of coastal and waterway through education, action, data collection and partnerships.

Volunteers make up the bulk of the workforce of the programs with materials, equipment and administration funded through Lane Cove Councils Sustainability Levy. Activities include clean-up events, water quality monitoring and waterbug sampling.

As well as removing litter from local waterways, HarbourCare contributes information to databases such as the Tangaroa Blue Australian Marine Debris Database and more recently the AUSMAP (Australian Microplastic Assessment Project).

# Young Legend's



## WINNER



### Planet Pens

Ngamurur Class Northside  
Montessori School

Alarmed by the impact of plastic pollution, especially in the oceans, students in the Ngamurur Class Northside Montessori School wanted to take action.

Inspired by YouTube's Make Brothers, the class decided to collect HDPE Plastics to recycle them into pens.

Starting a student-run small business called 'Planet Pens', they contacted the school community and the local barista convenience store 'Jack and Co' to collect HDPE plastics (such as milk lids). The students designed a logo, decorated collection bins and gave out mesh bags to collect plastics.

After sorting, washing and drying the collected plastics, the students melted them in a sandwich press, forming them into blocks, shaping them with a drill and lathe, and assembling them using pen part kits.

After surveying the community, the students determined the preferred packaging and price point, with proceeds from sold pens going to Planet Ark.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED



### Junior Rangers

Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden

Junior Rangers was created by Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden's Visitor Services Team to target primary school aged children with an interest in nature, sustainability and creating a better local environment.

The program is delivered weekly after school over three sessions to up to 30 children. Students are encouraged to expand their knowledge of the environment, working together to find solutions for problems they identify in their local environments.

The program forms part of a lifelong learning pathway at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, with the foundations currently being used to expand into a Youth Citizen Scientist program targeting high school students.



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