

## **A. R. BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD 2008/2009**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SECTION WINNER TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**MAYOR:** Cr JAMES TRELOAR  
**GENERAL MANAGER:** GLENN INGLIS  
**POPULATION:** 57,182  
**AREA:** 9,653 sq km  
**WEBSITE:** [www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au)

#### **CITATION:**

The Trustees of the A.R. Bluett Memorial Trust have named Tamworth Regional Council as the 2009 winner of the most coveted local government award in NSW. Tamworth Regional Council was judged to have made the most significant relative progress in 2008/2009 from a number of outstanding submissions from both metropolitan and regional councils.

The judges were left with the very strong impression that based on the evidence from a large number of entries; local government continues to be responsible for considerable initiative, innovation and outstanding local and regional representation.

In particular, the Trustees noted that Tamworth's 2008/2009 achievements included:

- The finalisation and opening of the \$30 million Australian Equine Livestock Centre
- The completion and opening of the \$1.65 million Capitol Theatre project
- The completion of the \$8 million Taminda levee, ensuring an end to any future flooding of the industrial precinct
- The outstanding achievement of winning the overall National Tidy Towns award
- The finalisation of a \$30 million waste services management contract
- The further advancement of the \$80 million Westdale sewerage augmentation scheme, with the associated development of an 80 megalitre dam to service a Council-operated effluent recycling farm
- The completion of the draft Regional Local Environment Plan, successfully incorporating five totally different LEP's into one consolidated Plan
- The development of a Cultural Plan, incorporating each of the smaller rural towns.
- The Tamworth Regional Development Strategy to address the economic and social sustainability of the smaller towns and villages in the region
- The finalisation of planning for an \$8 million indoor sports stadium, a \$3 million riverside sports precinct, and master plans for the redevelopment of Fitzroy street and Bi-Centennial Park

The Trustees were very impressed with the efforts made by the Council and staff in planning and implementing the 2004 local government amalgamations in the Tamworth region. The merger with four smaller rural councils and the ongoing community consultation with the wider shire community has been a major challenge. Underpinning the Council's success is a very strong executive and management leadership team, with an excellent ethic towards corporate governance and administrative efficiency.

The Trustees congratulate Mayor James Treloar, General Manager Glenn Inglis, and the councillors and staff of Tamworth Regional Council on an outstanding achievement.

(For comment: John Flannery, Chairman A.R. Bluett Memorial Trust, 0419 422 011 or email [jflannery@hunterlink.net.au](mailto:jflannery@hunterlink.net.au))