

A.R. BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD 2010/2011

SHIRES ASSOCIATION WINNER – TWEED SHIRE COUNCIL

MAYOR: CR. BARRY LONGLAND
GENERAL MANAGER: MIKE RAYNER
POPULATION: 90,000
AREA: 1,303 sq. km

CITATION

In winning the Award, Tweed Shire Council has displayed impressive community leadership while delivering major infrastructure projects and implementing a broad range of economic and environmental initiatives. The Shire has a population of 90,000 with an annual growth rate of 2.5% and anticipates reaching 125,000 people by 2031. The Council acknowledges it has emerged from a turbulent political past and the Trustees were impressed with the Council's commitment to delivering a wide range of programs while it balances growth with responsible strategic planning.

The Council has consulted extensively in completing the 2010/2011 Community Strategic Plan, which involved extensive community consultation and places a high priority on balanced development, investment in community capital and protection of environmental assets. The management and councillors display cohesion and vision and have taken very responsible decisions in guiding the Council's long term financial viability. The Trustees were particularly impressed with the Council's community engagement strategy, innovations in economic and tourism development and the breadth of public works projects completed in the judging period.

The achievements during 2010/2011 included:

- Bray Park Water Treatment Plant construction (\$76 million fully funded by Council)
- Jack Evans Boat Harbour revitalization (\$8 million funded by grants and S94 funds)
- The excellent Tweed Link weekly newspaper and Council's staff newsletters
- Improved customer services; including SMS and smartphone applications and restructured customer service centre
- Major refurbishments of Fingal Head Boat Harbour, Arkinstall Park Complex, Cabarita Beach streetscape, and completion of Bray Park cycleway
- Tendering of economic and tourism services leading to the creation of the new peak body, Destination Tweed
- Implementation of Chinderah Material Recovery Facility, a Council/private sector initiative constructed as a requirement of Council's recyclables contract
- Development of an important Coastal Erosion DCP to protect the coastline by controlling urban development in identified erosion hazard zones

The Trustees congratulate Mayor Barry Longland, General Manager Mike Rayner, Councillors and staff of Tweed Shire Council on an outstanding achievement in winning the A.R. Bluett Memorial Award.

For comment: John Flannery, Chairperson, A.R. Bluett Memorial Trust – 0419 422 011 or jflannery@hunterlink.net.au