

A.R. BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD 2010/2011

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION WINNER – WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR: CR. PAT REILLY
GENERAL MANAGER: NICK TOBIN
POPULATION: 70,000
AREA: 23 sq. km

CITATION

Willoughby City Council is a well-managed and innovative local government authority located in the Sydney metropolitan area and has a strong focus on the establishment and maintenance of sustainable physical infrastructure and improving public safety and amenity while meeting the needs of its residents. The Council has been very strategic and responsible in managing and conserving its resources, master planning public works and engaging with the community. Within the period under review, the Council has completed an impressive range of community infrastructure projects almost entirely from its own resources.

The major project delivered by the Council was the completion of The Concourse, a Council funded and project managed performing arts and community learning centre located in the heart of Chatswood. Built at a cost of \$171 million, The Concourse is an 11,000 square metre site incorporating a Concert Hall and Theatre, conference facilities, a new 5,000 square metre public library and outdoor public entertainment area. The Council commenced construction of the project in 2008 and it was completed ahead of schedule and on budget. The project incorporates an important CBD flood mitigation and water reuse scheme and is one of the largest facilities of its type delivered by a Council in Australia.

Other achievements during 2010/2011 include:

- Refurbishment of Chatswood Mall
- Restoration and conversion of the heritage listed Willoughby Incinerator into a café, artist's studio and exhibition space
- Installation of an A-grade synthetic sports field at Northbridge Oval and other park upgrades and restoration projects
- Expansion of the free Artarmon Loop shuttle bus service
- Organising over 100 events and festivals catering for a diverse population of residents and visitors
- Implementation of a detailed Energy Saving Action Plan that achieved by December 2010 a greenhouse reduction target of 50% based on 1999 levels
- Expansion of Willoughby's youth services with a range of new programs and services, including Glambition, a girls only program and a Youth Action Group

The Trustees congratulate Mayor Pat Reilly, General Manager Nick Tobin, Councillors and staff of Willoughby City Council on an outstanding achievement in winning the A.R. Bluett Memorial Award.

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