

## **A. R. BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD 2007/2008**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SECTION WINNER AUBURN COUNCIL**

**MAYOR:** Cr IRENE SIMMS  
**GENERAL MANAGER:** JOHN BURGESS  
**POPULATION:** 64,959  
**AREA:** 32 sq km  
**WEBSITE:** [www.auburn.nsw.gov.au](http://www.auburn.nsw.gov.au)

#### **CITATION:**

Auburn Council impressed the Trustees as being a very good team based local authority, dealing with significant local issues in an innovative and efficient manner. Considerable progress has been made in recent years dealing with the economic challenges of the area, cultural and social diversity and managing with limited resources.

The Auburn local government area is one of the most disadvantaged in NSW and the Council has responded to the critical role that local government can play in the social and cultural development of its local community. The Council has demonstrated its ability to work in partnership with all sectors of the community to achieve better outcomes for Auburn through progressive and inclusive leadership.

The Council has been challenged to perform to higher standards and has responded with improved teamwork, capacity building, staff recruitment and development plans, improved financial controls and the focus on good governance. The entry fully complied with the Trust guidelines to be brief, informative and to direct attention to the important progressive actions taken by the Council during the past twelve months. The Trustees were particularly impressed with the Council's leadership initiatives, community engagement programs and focus on local economic development.

Some of the major projects and initiatives noted were:

- The town centre planning for Auburn and Lidcombe
- The Auburn Sustainability Strategy, integrating eight themes including social, economic, water management, urban development, biodiversity and energy sustainability
- Organisational improvements in governance, business systems, workforce capability and culture
- Auburn's economic vision; including the Employment Lands Study, Draft LEP and encouragement of new business development
- The Strategic Social Plan; incorporating employment action plans for skilled migrants and refugees and other social development achievements
- Supporting over 130 non-profit community groups and the Auburn Small Community Organisation Network
- Establishing Auburn Library as a "community loungeroom"
- Launching the first Auburn Cultural Plan and associated events
- The innovative approach to its Waste Education and Compliance Strategy

Auburn City Council is a progressive local authority with a commitment to community leadership and responsible local government management. The Trustees congratulate the Mayor and General Manager, councillors and staff of the Auburn City Council on an outstanding achievement and a well-deserved A.R. Bluett Memorial Award.

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

