

A. R. BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD 2007/2008

HIGHLY COMMENDED ENTRY – COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL

MAYOR: COUNCILLOR TIM HORAN
GENERAL MANAGER: JOHN GRIFFITHS
POPULATION: 4,263
AREA: 9,926 sq km
WEBSITE: www.coonamble.nsw.gov.au

CITATION:

The Trustees decided this year to award one Highly Commended Certificate in the Shires Association section of the Bluett Memorial Awards and the award went to Coonamble Shire Council. As is the case with most award recipients, Coonamble Shire Council is well led by an enthusiastic Council and a most impressive staff. The Council enjoys a strong financial springboard, which has enabled it to carry out an outstanding infrastructure replacement program. The other noteworthy achievement came with an industry-leading program committing Coonamble to becoming one hundred percent carbon-neutral by the beginning of 2010.

Achievements that impressed the judges included:

- The development of separate strategic and management plans across all main departments
- An emphasis on sustainability by the application of innovative asset management programs.
- The replacement of the remaining nine timber bridges within the shire – an outstanding achievement in the available timeframe.
- Upgrades to parks, which greatly enhances recreational and sporting capacity for residents of all ages within the shire.
- Heating and covering of the town's swimming pool.
- Significant progress towards the redevelopment of the Showground.
- A health-check program for all indigenous children 14 years and under, with follow-up monitoring.
- Strong support for local businesses and industry.
- A strong and well-promoted events program

The Trustees congratulate the Mayor, General Manager, Councillors and staff of Coonamble Shire Council on an outstanding year of progress and service to their constituents.

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