

# **A. R. BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD 2004/2005**

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION – DUBBO CITY COUNCIL**

**MAYOR:** COUNCILLOR ALLAN SMITH  
**GENERAL MANAGER:** MARK RILEY

### **CITATION:**

Dubbo City Council has made excellent progress in delivering services to its local government area and is congratulated on winning the A.R. Bluett Award. The Council completed an impressive public works and services program, met its statutory and administrative responsibilities in an efficient and timely manner and demonstrated a commitment to progressive community leadership.

The entry was well presented, concisely summarised the Council's achievements and impressed the trustees with its informative narrative and layout. It is pleasing to see a full service local authority such as Dubbo achieving real progress across all functional areas under the financial and resource constraints that challenge the local government industry today.

Some of the major capital work reported by the Council were:

- A new art gallery, museum and community arts centre costing over \$7 million.
- Major upgrading of the War Memorial Civic Centre costing over \$1million.
- Upgrading of the Aquatic Leisure Centre costing \$900,000.
- Construction of a \$2.8 million grandstand at Apex Park.
- Construction of a new \$1.4 million Animal Shelter.
- Commenced redevelopment of Dubbo City Airport Terminal.
- \$6.5 million refurbishment of the Civic Administration Building.
- \$30 million water supply and sewerage augmentation works.

While the Council successfully delivered this \$44 million capital works program in 2004/2005, it is also commended for achieving significant progress in other local government services such as:

- Launching a \$195,000 cooperative tourism advertising campaign to increase brand awareness of Central NSW.
- Implementation of an award winning stormwater education program "Butts Out of the Macquarie".
- Implementation of a Heritage Fund for conservation of significant heritage items in the City and rural areas.
- No Smoking Policy adopted banning smoking within sports grounds and associated buildings.
- Acquisition of 60 hectares of river front land for future public open space.
- Adoption of the Corporate Strategic Plan 2005-2025, providing a blueprint for future development of the City.
- Adoption of youth service initiatives, including Dubbo Youth Week, appointing a Families First Project Officer and funding the Aboriginal Youth Leadership Project.
- Environmental initiatives, including a Showerhead Replacement Program, Energy Efficiency Seminars and the Dubbo Education for Sustainability Strategy.

Dubbo City Council is an impressive local authority with a commitment to continuous improvement and responsible local government. The Trustees congratulate the Mayor, Cr Allan Smith, General Manager, Mark Riley, councillors and staff of the Dubbo City Council on an outstanding achievement and a well-deserved A.R. Bluett Memorial Award.