

## **A. R. BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD 2006/2007**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SECTION WINNER GOULBURN MULWAREE COUNCIL**

**MAYOR:** COUNCILLOR PAUL STEPHENSON  
**GENERAL MANAGER:** LUKE JOHNSON  
**POPULATION:** 27,100  
**AREA:** 3,232 sq km  
**WEBSITE:** [www.goulburn.nsw.gov.au](http://www.goulburn.nsw.gov.au)

#### **CITATION:**

The Trustees were very impressed with the way Goulburn Mulwaree Council went about addressing the serious infrastructure and servicing problems the Council has experienced in the relatively short time since it was formed. The Council was formed in February 2004 and includes the former Goulburn City Council and the majority of Mulwaree Shire Council.

The Council embarked on a corporate planning path directed at achieving a sustainable environment, quality infrastructure, a strong economy and sound organisation development. In all these areas it has excelled and was well placed in 2006/2007 to continue its improvement programs and implement a range of initiatives to address a critical water shortage in Goulburn.

The entry fully complied with the new requirements 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 very impressed with the Council's initiative, community education programs and good strategic focus.

Some of the major projects and initiatives reported by the Council were:

- Implementation of strict water restrictions in conjunction with community action and support to reduce water use, and conserve water
- Implementation of a series of capital works to bolster water supply and re-use, including establishing bore fields, implementing an over-land river transfer system and dam improvements
- Implementation of a best practice Water Management Strategy for the entire water management cycle
- Development of an award winning Rural Living Handbook to encourage good land management practices
- Tourism and economic developments with new business estates, festivals and events
- Formation of a corporate governance unit and new strategic management framework
- Environmental initiatives in community partnerships, recycling services and waste water reuse
- Completion of the Council's 2020 Planning Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy
- Completion of major urban road improvements, parks improvements and heritage sites development

Goulburn Mulwaree Council is a progressive local authority with a commitment to continuous improvement and responsible local government management. The Trustees congratulate the Mayor, Cr Paul Stephenson, General Manager, Luke Johnson, councillors and staff of the Goulburn Mulwaree 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))