

A. R. BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD 2007/2008

HIGHLY COMMENDED ENTRY – LAKE MACQUARIE CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR: COUNCILLOR GREG PIPER
GENERAL MANAGER: BRIAN BELL
POPULATION: 190,320
AREA: 754.2 sq km
WEBSITE: www.lakemac.nsw.gov.au

CITATION:

The Trustees have awarded a Highly Commended Certificate in the Local Government Association section of the A.R. Bluett Memorial Award to Lake Macquarie City Council.

The Council has completed an impressive range of community development and infrastructure projects and is well managed and purposeful in its service delivery. The entry was informative, well set out and complied with the entry requirements. The Trustees were particularly impressed with the Council's extensive environmental initiatives, waste management program and the lead role the Council assumed in the recovery from the June 2007 Hunter floods.

Achievements that impressed the judges included:

- The Lake Macquarie Catchment Management Plan and associated improvement works
- The new Town Centre Program for existing and emerging regional centres
- Extensive community consultation program associated with the new Community Plan
- The 2007 Natural Disaster Recovery
- The restructuring of Council's Environmental Systems Department
- Numerous waste management initiatives; including the regional waste project, lifecycle collections, greenhouse gas extraction and landfill improvements
- A successful program of community events servicing a large and dispersed population base
- The focus on internal efficiencies and improvements to generate income and achieve cost savings
- A new human resource strategy to meet skill shortages, aging workforce challenges and improving workplace safety

The Trustees congratulate the Mayor, General Manager, Councillors and staff of Lake Macquarie City 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)