



MEDIA RELEASE
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MOST SUSTAINABLE CITY AND CLEANEST BEACH IN AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCED

The City of Brisbane and Victoria's West Beach are leading the nation

Queensland capital the City of Brisbane and beautiful West Beach in Victoria were announced as the nation's best at the Keep Australia Beautiful's Sustainable Communities awards dinner tonight.

Brisbane have secured the Australian Sustainable City Award, while West Beach took the title of Australian Clean Beach for 2016.

The event was held in Frankston, Victoria – last year's big winners – and was hosted by Catriona Rowntree.

Individual awards were also given for leading cities and beaches in the following areas: Litter Prevention, Waste Management and Resource Recovery (ACT and VIC); Environmental Sustainability (QLD and WA); Environmental Education (NSW); Community Action and Wellbeing (VIC and TAS); Heritage and Culture (WA and SA); and Young Legends (TAS, VIC, and NSW). See overleaf for full list of winners.

Overall Australian Sustainable Cities winner Brisbane City Council succeeds by trusting its own ambitious decisions, said Sustainable Cities judge Sue Burton.

"They plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2017," she said.

"The scale of change required to meet this target and to be water smart, aim for zero waste, increase biodiversity, to be a resilient city and to deliver in partnership with community and industry requires long-term thinking and actions implemented beyond the usual political time frames.

"Brisbane does all this, and does it exceptionally well. Having won this award in 2014 this new recognition commends Brisbane City Council's ongoing commitment to sustainability across every awards category."

Clean Beaches overall winner West Beach, Saint Kilda is a popular recreation spot in an urban environment in close proximity to one of Australia's busiest ports.

"Nevertheless," said Clean Beaches judge Averil Bones, "West Beach remains clean and beautiful, with great facilities, a passionate group of committed residents, an engaged business community, and an effective and responsive council.

"It is no coincidence that West Beach, through the leadership of the Port Phillip EcoCentre, has also jointly won this year's Young Legends category. The dynamic young leaders emerging from the West Beach community are testament to a long-term commitment to litter prevention, recycling, environmental sustainability and education programs that engage and nurture the next generations."

David Imrie, National Chief Executive Officer of Keep Australia Beautiful said “The consistently high quality sustainability initiatives springing up across the country are inspiring and encouraging.”

“Seeing our Young Legends volunteers, to small communities like Narooma in NSW, to sustainable businesses like Soft Landing and city councils like Randwick, Brisbane and Yarra all at their best, it’s a reminder that it takes all of us, in our own individual and community capacity, to create real and long-lasting change to Australia’s environment.”

The city of Frankston hosted a full day for awards finalists, starting with a tour of Frankston and its winning sustainability projects, followed by workshops designed to inspire and creatively engage with sustainability issues.

Through the Sustainable Communities and Tidy Towns Programs, Keep Australia Beautiful share expert knowledge and experience to empower those who care about our environment to actively work towards a cleaner, more sustainable Australia.

Australian Sustainable Cities and Clean Beaches 2015 Winners Table

CATEGORY	SUSTAINABLE CITIES WINNER	CLEAN BEACHES WINNER
Overall Winner	Brisbane City Council Queensland	West Beach Victoria
Special Commendation	N/A	Victor Harbor South Australia
Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention, Waste Management and Resource Recovery	Soft Landing Mattress Recycling Australian Capital Territory	West Beach Victoria
Environmental Sustainability	Brisbane City Council Queensland	Cemetery Beach Western Australia
Environmental Education	Randwick City Council New South Wales	Narooma Beach New South Wales
Community Action and Wellbeing	Yarra City Council Victoria	Dover Beach Tasmania
Heritage and Culture	Albany Western Australia	Victor Harbor South Australia
Young Legends	Glenorchy City Council Tasmania	Gio Fitzpatrick West Beach, Victoria
Young Legends	N/A	Georgia Poyner Narooma, New South Wales

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