MEDIA RELEASE

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Hawkesbury named Keep Australia Beautiful NSW's 2026 Sustainable Cities Winner

Hawkesbury City Council has been named the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW 2026l Sustainable Cities Winner, recognised for its community engagement, environmental initiatives and collaborative approach to sustainability.

The announcement was made today at the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards at Hornsby RSL, hosted by 2025 Winner Hornsby Shire Council. The awards celebrate the contributions of councils, community groups, schools, businesses and individuals to more sustainable and liveable communities.

"Sustainability is clearly a high priority at Hawkesbury, supported by strong collaboration and a shared commitment to the area's future," said Tasneem Rangwala, Overall Assessor for the 2026 Sustainable Cities Awards.

"The assessment highlighted enthusiastic community engagement and education, alongside work with First Nations peoples and neighbouring councils to address local environmental challenges."

Hawkesbury's *Litter Prevention Program* was named joint winner of the Litter Prevention category. Council also received Highly Commended recognition for *Hawkesbury Litter Education & Engagement* in Communication and Engagement and *Leading the Way with Sustainable Events* in Plastic Free Communities.

These projects complement broader work in climate adaptation, recycling and waste management across Hawkesbury's urban, rural and natural areas.

Sutherland Shire Council was named overall runner-up and won the Liveable Cities category for *Trees as Assets: Transforming Urban Canopy*. The assessor praised its urban greening work, supported by native seed propagation, volunteers and education partnerships.

Val Southam, Chief Executive Officer of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, congratulated this year's recipients.

"These awards celebrate people giving their time, sharing their knowledge and working together to care for their local environment," Ms Southam said.

"Congratulations to Hawkesbury, runner-up Sutherland and all our entrants for their commitment to more sustainable and resilient communities."

The awards program and event were held with the support of Hornsby Shire Council, the NSW Environment Protection Authority, and Snowy Hydro.

Photos from the event and the awards winners' book will be available shortly after the event at: https://www.kabnsw.org.au/2026-sustainable-cities-winner/

THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AWARDS & EVENT SPONSORS

[ENDS]

KAB NSW 2026 Sustainable Cities Awards Winners and Highly Commended Table

CATEGORY	WINNER	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Overall Sustainable Cities Award	**Hawkesbury City Council**	**Sutherland Shire Council**
Biodiversity Conservation	**Gumbramorra Re-creation Project** Inner West Council	**Protecting Biodiversity After Dark** Northern Beaches Council
Circular Economy *Sponsored by NSW EPA*	**Hornsby Shire: Driving the Circular Economy** Hornsby Shire Council Waste Branch	**High-rise, High Reuse: Circular Textiles** Penrith City Council
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation *Sponsored by Red Energy*	**CO_2 Concrete** Western Sydney University	**Urban Forest Strategic Framework** Willoughby City Council **Caravan Park Preparedness Project** Penrith City Council
Communication and Engagement	**The Secret Life of Powerful Owls** Georgia Cameron & Michael Bianchino	**Our Energy Future** City of Parramatta **Hawkesbury Litter Education & Engagement** Hawkesbury City Council
Community Spirit & Inclusion	**Creating a Sustainable Hospital** The Auburn Hospital Sustainability Team	**Project Planet** Bayside Council
Heritage & Culture	**Stories on Parade: Bringing History to Life** Bayside Council	
Litter Prevention *Sponsored by NSW EPA* JOINT WINNERS	**Hawkesbury Litter Prevention Program** Hawkesbury City Council **Sydney By Kayak Conservation Fund** Sydney By Kayak	**Working Towards a Litter Free Canada Bay** City of Canada Bay
Liveable Cities	**Trees as Assets: Transforming Urban Canopy** Sutherland Shire Council	**Canterbury Road Underpass Mural** Place Improvement Team CBCity
Local Heroes	**Cameron Henery** Northern Beaches Council	**Auburn Hospital Sustainability Team** The Auburn Hospital Sustainability Team
Plastic Free Communities	**Campbelltown is Brewing Change** Resource Recovery and Waste Team, Campbelltown City Council	**Leading the Way with Sustainable Events** Hawkesbury City Council
Resource Recovery	**Turning Food and Garden Waste into Compost** Blacktown City Council	**Fighting Food Waste - One Bin at a Time** Lane Cove Council **Chilly Findings: Fridge & Freezer Recycling** City of Ryde
Waste Avoidance JOINT WINNERS	**Towards Zero Waste Events** Blue Mountains City Council **Clothing, Toy and Book Swap Events** Ku-ring-gai Council	**Angle Park Remediation Waste Avoidance** Liverpool City Council
Water Conservation and Protection	**Kookie's Konservationists** Miranda Public School	**Water Sensitive Wollondilly** Wollondilly Shire Council **Adopt a Beach Program** Surfrider Foundation Northern Beaches
Young Legends	**Young Eco-Warriors: Leading Change** Blacktown North Public School	**Waste to Worth** Caddies Creek Public School **Green Team: Sustainability Team** Lethbridge Park Public School

CONTACT DETAILS

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

About the KABNSW Sustainable Cities Awards

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards Program is a community and environmental awards program for metropolitan communities in NSW.

Since 1994, projects that not only enhance the environment but also improve the standard of living and well-being of urban communities have been a hallmark of the activities recognised by these awards.

The Sustainable Cities Awards inspire communities to make a genuine and lasting contribution to their area, with partnerships between local authorities, businesses, community groups, schools, and individuals.

About KAB NSW

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KABNSW) is the state's premier organisation for litter reduction and environmental sustainability. Independent and not-for-profit, our focus is to engage communities to make NSW the least littered state in Australia, transforming littering behaviour to create a beautiful and more sustainable environment.

Over a 40-year history we have built a state-wide network of dedicated individuals, businesses, schools, community groups and government bodies striving to deliver a cleaner environment.

Through five core programs we work with communities across regional, metropolitan, and coastal NSW to educate and motivate environmental initiatives.