



MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed 4:00pm

Thursday 6 November 2025

Hornsby Shire Council Takes Top Honours at the 2025 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards

Hornsby Shire Council has been awarded the prestigious title of NSW Overall Sustainable Cities Winner for 2025, in recognition of its outstanding leadership, innovation, and commitment to building a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient urban future.

The 2025 Sustainable Cities Awards were presented today at a ceremony at Sydney Zoo hosted by the 2024 winner, Blacktown City Council and sponsored by Origin Zero, celebrating excellence in urban sustainability across greater metropolitan Sydney.

Now in its 31st year, the Sustainable Cities Awards program recognises the powerful role that councils, community groups, businesses, schools, and individuals play in creating cleaner, greener, and more liveable cities.

“Hornsby’s passion and innovation placed them firmly at the top this year,” said Peter Clark, Lead Assessor for the Sustainable Cities Awards. “Hornsby Shire Council exemplifies sustainability leadership through a diverse range of initiatives, genuine community connections, and forward-thinking strategies. Their progressive and holistic approach to urban development, environmental stewardship, and inclusion sets a powerful example for other cities to follow.”

The Council’s achievements reflect a long-term commitment to embedding sustainability into daily operations and community life. By combining creative initiatives, comprehensive engagement, and effective partnerships, Hornsby has demonstrated how integrated planning can deliver tangible environmental and social outcomes.

Val Southam, CEO of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, praised this year’s finalists and winners, stating: “The Sustainable Cities Awards shine a spotlight on the innovative and inspiring work being done to shape a more sustainable future for Sydney. Hornsby Shire Council is a deserving winner, showcasing how strong leadership, collaboration, and community spirit can drive lasting change. Congratulations to Hornsby and to all the entrants who are helping to make our cities more liveable and resilient.”

The KAB NSW Sustainable Cities Awards Program is made possible through the generous support of the NSW Environment Protection Authority, and Red Energy.

Photos from the event and the awards winners’ book will be available shortly after the event at:

<https://www.kabnsw.org.au/hornsby-shire-council-takes-top-honours-at-the-2025-keep-australia-beautiful-nsw-sustainable-cities-awards/>

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KAB NSW 2025 Sustainable Cities Awards Winners and Highly Commended Table

CATEGORY	WINNER	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Overall Sustainable Cities Award	Hornsby Shire Council	
Biodiversity Conservation	Grow, Restore, Connect Volunteer Project Sutherland Shire Council	Walk on Wangal Nature Trail City of Canada Bay Wildlife Protection Areas Lane Cove Council
Circular Economy <i>(Sponsored by NSW EPA)</i>	Mattress Shredding and Recycling Liverpool City Council - Circular Economy Team	
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation <i>(Sponsored by Red Energy)</i>	Cumberland Cool Carpark Cumberland City Council	Wisemans Ferry Community Resilience Plan Hornsby Shire Council
Communication and Engagement	"Bin it Right" Campaign Northern Beaches Council	Georges River Binfluencing Campaign Georges River Council Sustainadilly Workshop Program Wollondilly Shire Council
Community Spirit & Inclusion	The Wellbeing Project - My Neighbourhood North West Community Services	New-Bub Bushcare Hornsby Shire Council
Heritage & Culture	The 12 Beetles of Christmas Lane Cove Council	
Litter Prevention <i>(Sponsored by NSW EPA)</i>	<u>Clean Communities</u> Hawkesbury Litter Prevention Program Hawkesbury City Council <u>Clean Waterways</u> Satyam Ghaat - Litter Prevention Liverpool City Council	<u>Clean Communities</u> Tackling Northern Beaches Fishing Litter OzFish and Northern Beaches Council
Liveable Cities	Gipps Street Recreation Precinct Penrith City Council	Philimona Gardens Liverpool City Council and Phillips Marler Empowering Women and CALD Communities City of Parramatta
Plastic Free Communities	Randwick's Eco Living Festival Randwick City Council - Sustainability	

CATEGORY	WINNER	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Resource Recovery JOINT WINNERS	Solved! Public Place Recycling Sutherland Shire Council	
	Less Bins, More Wins: Waste Revitalisation Penrith City Council	
Waste Avoidance	Creating Sustainable Cities Auburn Hospital Sustainability Team	Second-Hand Markets: Circularity in Action Hornsby Shire Council
Waterways and Marine Protection	Adopt a Beach Program Surfrider Foundation Northern Beaches	Healthy Waterways Multicultural Workshop Advanced Diversity Services & Georges River Council
Young Legends	The Green Ripple Effect Bayside Council	Jannali Public School Green Team Jannali Public School
		Project Less to Landfill Wheeler Heights Public School Sustainability Program

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.