



media release

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Innisfail named Far North Queensland's Tidiest Town!

Editors please note: Correct name of the competition is Ergon Energy Tidy Towns

Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland named Innisfail as Far North Queensland's Tidiest Town 2008, at the Ergon Energy Tidy Towns Regional Awards today.

The Town of 9,000 residents took out the title ahead of 24 other contenders from the Far North Queensland region in this year's Ergon Energy Tidy Towns competition. A total of 174 towns from ten regions throughout Queensland entered the environmental and community development program in 2008.

Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland CEO, Carole Miller said Innisfail demonstrated a high level of achievement across the competition criteria and could be justifiably proud of its success.

"Pride is the key to becoming the Tidiest Town. Innisfail has pride in its appearance, in its history, in its environment and most importantly in its youth and future.

"I must congratulate everyone involved, former and current councillors and council staff, community groups, schools, and of course individuals, everyone who takes the trouble to pick up a piece of rubbish, who practices the 4 Rs - Refuse, Reduce, Re-use, Recycle - obviously so many are doing that to good effect in Innisfail. So congratulations Innisfail, well done," she concluded.

Ergon Energy General Manager Operations Northern, Paul Ryan congratulated Innisfail on its success and wished it well as it now competed for the State Title.

"As the principal sponsor of the Queensland Tidy Towns program for 10 years, we've seen first hand the hard work it takes to be crowned the very best in the state, and Innisfail would have to be a strong contender this year" Mr Ryan said.

"Last years Queensland winner Toowoomba went on to claim the national title and there's every reason to think Innisfail is capable of emulating that success based on the excellent comments from the judges.

"The Tidy Towns competition is all about fostering sustainable communities. In the 10 years we've been associated with the competition, we've seen the enormous difference the Ergon Energy Tidy Towns program has made across the State, with support going from strength to strength.

"Ergon Energy is proud to partner Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland to show our ongoing commitment to supporting the communities in which we work and live.

"This partnership also reflects our philosophy of sustainability by giving us an opportunity to promote green energy, environmental awareness and regional development in Queensland." He concluded.

As well as the title of Tidiest Town, 11 regional outstanding achievement awards were announced:

1. Queensland's Sustainable City **Cairns**
2. Environmental Protection Award **Cooktown**
3. Queensland's Young Legends Award **Burketown**
4. Sustainable Solutions Award **Atherton**

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5. *Paradise & Bishopp Outdoor Advertising* Heritage Award **Port Douglas**
6. *Australia Post* Bush Spirit Award **Babinda**
7. *RACQ* Litter Prevention Award **Poruma Island**
8. *Do the Right Thing* Resource Recovery Award sponsored by the *Packaging Stewardship Forum*
Cairns
9. *OneSteel Recycling* Partnerships Award **Normanton**
10. *Grundfos Pumps* Water Conservation Award **Mt Surprise**
11. *MINT* Individual Outstanding Accomplishment Award (awarded at the regional level only)
Innisfail – Mothers Helping Others
12. *Tourism Queensland* Friendliest Town Award **Croydon**

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND TIDIEST TOWN 2008 – INNISFAIL

Judge Justification

With a mind set of “opportunity in the face of adversity”, Innisfail gives every impression of a town with an eye on the future.

Local government, businesses, community groups and individuals have all joined forces cooperatively to focus on making their town an even better place to live and support those who may be still suffering some difficulties after Tropical Cyclone Larry.

The numerous public parks and open spaces have been remodelled with appropriate plantings, user friendly design, interpretative walkways and serviceability.

Environmental Groups and the Botanical Gardens, with their volunteers, ensure the preservation and protection of sensitive fauna and flora. Weed and pest management is also a priority

Committed groups such as Mothers Helping Others, Art Deco in the Tropics, Innisfail Historical Society and many others contribute unstinting service to the people and their heritage. The town’s youth are included in public improvement projects.

Public education campaigns and convenience of litter and recycling facilities ensure a high degree of resource recovery and a tidy environment.

All Far North Queensland Regional Winners will now join winners from nine other judging regions as finalists for the State Awards to be announced at a gala ceremony in Cairns on Monday 1 September.

To obtain other Far North Queensland Regional Award winners’ justifications please email kimmy@kabq.org.au or phone 3252 2886 –Ends –



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