



Media Release
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Litter Collective cleans up twice at awards night

A local organisation dedicated to removing litter from Sunshine Coast waterways has been awarded the highest honour at the annual Healthy Waterways Awards held last night, receiving \$11,500 in prize money.

The Sunshine Coast Litter Collective is a unique and innovative collaboration of community, industry and government organisations working on reducing the impacts of litter in local waterways. More than 150 volunteers work routinely throughout the year, including volunteer crews of six boats patrolling river and canal systems from Noosa to the Pumicestone Passage.

The organisation was acknowledged in two award categories, the 7 News - Clean Up Award and the Minister's Grand Prize, with the project voted the most innovative of all entries by an independent judging panel.

The Sunshine Coast Litter Collective has used public education, data collection surveys, infrastructure improvements, on-water working crews and litter collection days to reduce the impacts of litter and improve waterways.

Channel 7 Managing Director Max Walters said 7 News was proud to sponsor the Clean Up Award category of the Healthy Waterways Awards.

"Channel 7 is passionate about keeping our waterways clean and understands the importance of helping to raise awareness of and support for such an important initiative," he said.

The Healthy Waterways Awards are hosted by the SEQ Healthy Waterways Partnership, a special collaboration between government, industry, researchers and the community, working to improve catchment management and waterway health in South East Queensland.

Now in its tenth year, the annual Healthy Waterways Awards recognise the outstanding contribution of groups and individuals working to improve the health of South East Queensland's waterways and catchments.

This year's Healthy Waterways Awards category winners included:

- 7 News - Clean Up Award: Sunshine Coast Litter Collective
- Veolia Water Australia - School Award: Gold Coast Waterwatch- Gold Coast City Council and Natura Education
- Seqwater - Rural Award: Riparian Vegetation Management Projects - Ipswich Rivers Improvement Trust
- Southern Pacific Sands - Water Sensitive Urban Design Award: Broadwater Parklands Southport - AECOM

- WaterSecure - Research Award: Prioritisation of Catchment Scale River Restoration within South East Queensland - Griffith University and eWater CRC
- BMT WBM - Government Award: Living with Class A+ Recycled Water on the Gold Coast - Gold Coast Water
- Brisbane Airport - Community Award: The rescue and rehabilitation of native birds in SEQ as a direct consequence of fishing - Pelican and Seabird Rescue Inc.
- Arup - Industry Award: Marine Rehabilitation of the re-aligned Landers Pocket Drain - Leighton Contractors with Brisbane Airport Corporation and NatureCall
- CSIRO National Research Flagships - Waterways Champion Award: Anne Clarke

Acting Climate Change and Sustainability Minister, Annastacia Palaszczuk, said the awards were a vital part of building public awareness about the need to continue improving the condition of South East Queensland's waterways.

"It's important to recognise the individuals, groups, councils and industries who are working so hard to improve the condition of our local rivers, creeks and catchments," Ms Palaszczuk said.

"We all benefit from the time, effort and dedication of these people and I hope receiving a Healthy Waterways Award demonstrates our appreciation for the great work being done across South East Queensland."

Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman, a past member of the Healthy Waterways Board for more than eight years, said the Healthy Waterways Awards played an important role in improving the city's waterways.

"Each year the Healthy Waterways Awards make us aware of the efforts everyday people and organisations make to improve the quality of our catchments and river systems," Cr Newman said.

"I hope these awards encourage others to participate in projects to protect our waterways and make Brisbane a cleaner, greener and more liveable city."

For more information about the Healthy Waterways Awards, visit www.healthywaterways.org or contact Healthy Waterways on 07 3123 1682.

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For media enquiries please contact:

Prue Leng - PPR
 P: 07 3309 4732
 E: pleng@ppr.com.au

Anna Walker – Healthy Waterways
 P: 07 3123 1682 ext 416
 E: anna.walker@healthywaterways.org

Photo opportunities:

Images available upon request.