



MEDIA RELEASE

Water factory wins gold at top environmental awards

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GIPPSLAND WATER has won Australia's pre-eminent award for environmental excellence for its Gippsland Water Factory project.

The corporation was announced winner of the overall 'Gold Banksia' at the 2011 Banksia Environmental Awards in Sydney on Friday night.

Considered the 'Oscars of environmental awards' in Australia, the Banksia's celebrate the achievements of those who have made a significant contribution to the sustainable future of the country through leadership and innovation.

The Origin Gold Banksia Award is the most prestigious of the Banksia Awards presented each year. The recipient is selected from the winners of the 10 Banksia category awards.

Gippsland Water was a finalist in three Banksia categories; BUILT ENVIRONMENT and WATER for the Gippsland Water Factory project, and EDUCATION for its Vortex Centre the and associated 'Water Wonders' education program.

The corporation won both the WATER and EDUCATION category awards.

Gippsland Water's managing director, David Mawer, said the corporation was thrilled with the wins, which recognised the environmental achievements and sustainability focus of the Gippsland Water Factory project. "I would like to thank the technical support personnel of our alliance partners and particularly all the staff of Gippsland Water who have worked so hard to deliver the vision that this project represents."

"Winning the Gold Banksia Award is external validation of Gippsland Water's commitment to delivering an integrated wastewater management project in an innovative and sustainable way," Mr Mawer said.

"The Gippsland Water Factory is a solution to the long-standing environmental problem of untreated wastewater travelling in an open drain sewer for 41 kilometres, and also provides 11 central Gippsland towns with new wastewater treatment infrastructure."

Mr Mawer said the inclusion of water recycling - which saves fresh water in local rivers and reservoirs - and incorporation of many sustainable design features, further enhanced the

environmental credentials of Gippsland Water Factory and ensured it was a project the community could be proud of.

For more information about the Gippsland Water Factory project, please visit Gippsland Water's website at www.gippswater.com.au.

Authorised:
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