MINISTERS HAIL UNSUNG HEROES AT WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS

Local Government Minister Don Page and the Minister for Women Pru Goward, today praised the previously unsung heroes of local government – women working in non-traditional, male-dominated roles.

Mr Page and Ms Goward were speaking after announcing the winners of the sixth annual Ministers’ Awards for Women in Local Government as part of International Women's Day celebrations at Parliament House.

The Awards were established to recognise the outstanding contributions and achievements of women in local government in NSW.

“The Awards seek to raise the profile of women in local government,” Mr Page said.

“They are about celebrating the unsung heroes of local government, who through their dedication, make a difference to the local community. It is my hope that through recognising the women of local government who make the greatest difference, we will inspire other women to work for and lead this vital sector.”

Ms Goward said the work of these women was very much on the frontline.

“Whether it’s as a councillor or a council employee, these women are called upon each day to respond to their communities by delivering services.

“The NSW Government has focussed on getting more women involved in non-traditional trades and local government plays an integral role in ensuring this happens,” Ms Goward said.

Mr Page said that for the first time in the history of the awards, they recognised women in non-traditional roles.

“Just as some of our councillor nominees have overcome the challenge of being elected to serve on a male-dominated council, women are increasingly succeeding in breaking into traditionally male-dominated front-line roles with great success,” Mr Page said.
“This new award category recognising these women will hopefully encourage others to follow in their footsteps.”

In the lead-up to the September 2012 elections, the Liberals & Nationals Government worked actively to encourage diverse groups, including women, to stand for election through its new Candidate Diversity Strategy.

Over 70 Candidate Information Seminars were held across NSW giving important information about the role of councillors and encouraging participation. A number were held in partnership with the Australian Local Government Women’s Association and included information specifically for women.

Women made up 35 per cent of candidates in the September 2012 election, which was a slight increase on the 2008 poll. In last year’s poll, women made up 27 per cent of successful candidates (no change since 2008).

The Awards were established in 2008 to recognise the achievements of women in local government and encourage more women to take on leadership roles in local government in NSW. Further details about the Awards and winners are available on the Division of Local Government's website at www.dlg.nsw.gov.au.

The Awards were won by:

**Elected Representative from a Metropolitan Council**
Highly Commended - Councillor Sally Betts, Waverly Council
Winner of the Award – Councillor Jackie Greenow, Penrith City Council

**Elected Representative from a Rural or Regional Council**
Highly Commended - Councillor Sharon Cadwallader, Ballina Council
Highly Commended - Councillor Anne Jones, Wellington Council
Highly Commended – Former Councillor Jan Barham, Byron Council
Winner of the Award - Councillor Gwen Griffen, Gunnedah Council

**Senior Staff Member – Metropolitan Council**
Winner of the Award – Colleen Worthy-Jennings, Gosford Council

**Senior Staff Member – Rural or Regional Council**
Winner of the Award – Carmel Krogh, Shoalhaven City Council

**Non-Senior Staff Member – Metropolitan Council**
Winner of the Award – Daniela Santucci, Bankstown City Council

**Non-Senior Staff Member – Rural or Regional Council**
Winner of the Award – Kelly Brown, Ballina Shire Council

**Women in a Non-Traditional Role – Metropolitan Council**
Winner of the Award – Lisa Scully, Newcastle City Council

**Women in a Non-Traditional Role – Rural or Regional Council**
Highly Commended – Jane Simmons, Forbes Shire Council
Highly Commended – Sheridan Cameron, Gunnedah Shire Council
Winner of the Award – Anne Sander, Cessnock City Council

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