

Regional and remote community initiatives

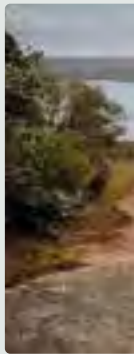


Tidy Towns
Sustainable
Communities

2021

Awards





From the Governor



As Patron of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council, I commend the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards initiative and in particular the spotlight they shine on Western Australia's regional and remote communities.

As the Keep Australia Beautiful Council flagship program, these awards create friendly competition between regional communities and promote environmental and sustainability initiatives.

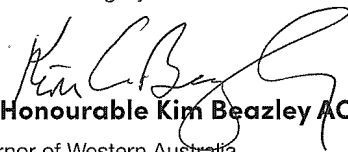
A tidy town is one that people want to live in and visit. It is a community with pride, that cares about its people and its environment.

The 2021 finalists embody the Tidy Towns ethos and share a commitment to engagement, volunteering, leadership and the overarching desire to have a beautiful, empowered and sustainable community.

The Keep Australia Beautiful Council has a proud tradition of providing leadership in the field of litter prevention and reduction in Western Australia, offering a range of innovative programs and initiatives for individuals and community groups as well as schools, businesses and local government authorities to inspire community action and positive environmental outcomes.

I am pleased to say the number of volunteers registered through Keep Australia Beautiful Council programs to keep their local community litter free continues to grow – with more than 50,000 in the Adopt-a-Spot program and nearly 17,000 registered as litter reporters. By working together, we can change attitudes and behaviours and move further towards our goal of a litter-free Western Australia.

To the 2021 finalists, I offer my heartfelt congratulations for your energy and community spirit. It is through your efforts that we will keep our regional communities thriving.


The Honourable Kim Beazley AC
Governor of Western Australia



From the Minister



Western Australia's regional and remote communities have again shown strong support for the Keep Australia Beautiful Council's Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards. This year, 28 finalists were chosen to compete for top honours – and each should be proud of its efforts in caring for the environment and working towards sustainability.

These awards celebrate Western Australia's top sustainable and litter-free communities. This year they have highlighted some truly stand-out examples of litter prevention, environmental education, community action, youth leadership and heritage preservation projects.

The State Government is committed to helping our communities face environmental and sustainability challenges through a range of initiatives.

Last year, we launched the State's container deposit scheme, Containers for Change, to improve recycling and reduce littering. Western Australians can return eligible drink containers for a 10-cent refund while improving our environment. In the first 12 months of operation, more than 765 million containers were collected for recycling and more than \$2.5 million was raised for 4,200 community groups and charities via the scheme. People living in regional WA returned more containers per head of population than those in the metropolitan area and were more likely to donate their containers to charities and community organisations. Well done regional WA!

In 2021, the State Government also fast-tracked the rollout of Western Australia's *Plan for Plastics*, which will see nine single use plastic items banned by the end of the year. Items include single-use plastic bowls and bowl lids, cups and cup lids for cold beverages, plates, cutlery, stirrers, straws, polystyrene food containers, thick plastic bags and helium balloon releases.

Other items will be phased out from the end of 2022, including plastic barrier/produce bags, cotton buds with plastic shafts, polystyrene packaging, microbeads, oxo-degradable plastics, and certain takeaway coffee cups and lids.

This plan sets WA on a path to becoming a plastic-free leader in Australia – and will help to protect our environment from the harmful effects of plastics. Through these initiatives, and many others, Western Australia is working towards a sustainable, low-waste circular economy in which human health and the environment are protected from the impacts of waste.

I thank this year's finalists for assisting us in that goal, and for their efforts towards ensuring our regional communities are unique, beautiful places that people want to live in and visit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Amber-Jade Sanderson".

Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson, MLA

Minister for Environment; Climate Action and Commerce
26 November 2021

From the Chair

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to encourage Western Australians to holiday in their own backyards – putting the passion and pride of regional Western Australia on display.

The Keep Australia Beautiful Council's flagship program – the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards – is a great way to celebrate these communities and their efforts to improve the appearance and litter-free aspect of their towns.

This September, 12 judges visited 33 communities across Western Australia, compiling a strong field of 28 finalists for the 2021 awards. This year, Tidy Towns partnered with Give Write who provide new and preloved stationery to children who don't have all they need. Judges were able to take requested repurposed stationery to schools in the communities they visited.

This publication details the judges' impressions from their regional visits and judging panel discussions, providing insight into the finalists and their projects.

Learn why Boddington's quirky art, environmental and heritage community projects propelled it into top spot as the 2021 Tidy Town's Sustainable Communities overall State Winner.

Join us in applauding Port and South Hedland for being the first location recognised for its implementation of the Containers for Change scheme – with more than five million containers processed as of 1 July and over \$500,000 donated back to the community.

Details of other finalists and winners are included as well, including a shout out to Boyup Brook – recognised for their strong environmental education programs and was the lucky recipient of the prize of a bin donated by Natsales.

I congratulate the 2021 entrants, finalists and category winners for their commitment to protecting the environment and enhancing the sustainability of their communities.

Their efforts protect our natural landscape for future generations and make Western Australia's regional and remote communities attractive and welcoming places for visitors and residents alike.



Michael Aspinall

Chairman,
Keep Australia Beautiful Council of Western Australia



State
winner

Boddington

Boddington's quirky art, environmental and heritage community projects are making the town an attractive and welcoming place for residents and visitors. This year, additional sculpture art made from recycled materials was placed in the centre of the tourism and art hub. A seven-metre wall mosaic constructed by the Boddington Arts Council created an impressive entry to Hotham Park, connecting the town's civic, youth and tourism precinct to the river. Foreshore spaces with nature play (think rocks, logs, sand and sunshine), a skate park, sports court and fitness hub are assets to the town.

The town's Reduce Reuse Recycle group created an impressive recycling plant to reduce landfill and transportation waste. Now in its second year of operation, the plant is not only reducing the amount of waste and plastic going to landfill but is a testament to the power of community action to bring about change. The Boddington community, including the shire, mining companies and environmental groups, are actively involved in promoting recycling and reducing litter to help keep their town beautiful. The range of single-use plastic products processed and the reuse of unwanted items continue to grow, with mining hats, car bumpers and gun pellets all being collected, shredded and a new market found for them. A new washup trailer from a Keep Australia Beautiful Community Litter Grant is also being used at local and neighbouring events.

The Hotham River Action Plan has directed the restoration of the river, as the community removes invasive weeds, plants trees and educates people about biodiversity. Partners include the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, Friends of the Reserves – Boddington Inc., South 32 Worsley Alumina, Newmont Boddington and the shire. This project brought Indigenous, local and environmental groups together on activities to protect the ecosystems of

the Hotham and William rivers. The restoration at Ranford Pool included new timber steps. Volunteers also planted trees, and Tunbridge Gully was revegetated with 3,300 seedlings. More than 70 volunteers rolled up their sleeves enjoying the muddy terrain on planting day.

Community fundraising totalling \$65,000 was used to restore the 127-year-old Marradong Church. After the foundation was repaired and the roof and floorboards replaced, a reopening ceremony was held in April 2021.

The Eco Club educates youth about the environment and runs activities. Adrian Smalberger, aged 12, was commended for his Terry the Tree character and program that teaches schoolchildren how to use recycling bins correctly and how not to litter.

Boddington now holds the second largest live action and role-playing (LARP) event in Australia. The LARP and Medieval Festival is an inclusive event that allows people of different ages, genders and backgrounds to participate in the role-playing convention. This event is held six times a year, helping people with personal development, creativity, and increased mental health and wellbeing.



'We were very impressed by the range of activity and outcomes across all the categories in the Awards. For the judges, it was evident that the Boddington community, across the shire, volunteers, groups and businesses are working to make their place a biodiverse, waste-conscious and art renowned town. It's a testament to the power of community working together.'

Jon Brand, Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards judge



State finalists



City of Karratha

The City of Karratha's projects submitted in the Awards reflects the vibrancy and dynamism of the people of Karratha. Community engagement is becoming a focus at the Karratha tip shop, which creates an effective 'circular economy' using both community donations and purchases. Community education is increasing through the Household Hazardous Waste program and open window composting at the 7 Mile waste facility show commitment to meeting the goals of the Waste Strategy 2030, which sets ambitious targets for WA to become a sustainable, low-waste economy. Karratha's focus on composting items from green waste collections and from mining camps, which would otherwise have gone to landfill, is leading the way in the Pilbara. Composting turns green waste into nutrients for home or community gardens.

Overlooking the heart of the town, the water tank mural artwork, *Formations*, by Chris Nixon incorporates ancient culture, recent arrivals and the importance of water in shaping the landscape and providing life to flora and fauna. Community activity including Meet Your Street, Mindful Yoga classes, One Tree Gurlu Gurlu Maya's worm farm, Bags for Bucks (now in its second decade) and #Monday Memory Facebook posts reflect strong community engagement.



Greenbushes

This vibrant community was the state winner in 2016 and continues to be a strong state contender. Judges were impressed by the outstanding range of environmental and social outcomes, including the inaugural ride-on lawnmower race. The Litter Blitz saw 60 bags of litter removed in one day, and the Containers for Change initiative, managed by the school, collected the 10c refunds on drink bottles and returned the money to the community. The Art Trail & Exhibition allowed local artists to exhibit and sell works, with the money raised used to install public art. This year, a quirky mural was commissioned to raise funds for the Breast Cancer Network Australia. Visitors were encouraged to have their bodies checked for cancer, while visitor attractions were depicted in the 'golden triangle' of towns – Greenbushes, Balingup and Nannup.

Additional projects carried out in Greenbushes included the following:

- Interpretive panels and picnic facilities for visitors were installed at The Public Mine Lookout.
- The whimsical Viet Aussie Garden was opened to visitors in Autumn and Spring, raising money for the primary school.
- The Folk Club was established, providing both music and mental health support to people.
- Employees of the Talison lithium mine, students and environmentalists attended a tree-planting day.



Boyup Brook

The Boyup Brook Community Resource Centre, a hub of activity in this small south-west town, is commended for their leading role in the War on Waste, with over 235 kg diverted from landfill in 12 months. Volunteers from the local Lions Club operate the Boyup Brook refund point with senior students from St Mary's Catholic School assisting in the creation of a second recycling drop-off point at the school.

The revitalisation of a neglected space through community clean-ups, weed removal and vibrant art murals painted by artist Sobrane in a live watch event has rejuvenated the tranquil billabong area and railways precinct. This outstanding project demonstrated impressive community engagement between the shire, the Tourism Association, Blackwood Basin Group, community resource centre, St Mary's, Lions and volunteers.

The Boyup Brook District High School yarning circle was created to acknowledge the traditions of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and allows students to gather, share stories and to create a sense of connection. The Boyup Brook Blooming Wild Weekend was a hive of activity and engagement, with art and craft collections open to the public.



Southern Cross

Southern Cross strongly values the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Award Program as an opportunity to demonstrate their initiatives in community building and environmental enhancement. The town, located on the edge of the wheatbelt about 380 km east of Perth, has worked hard to enhance its welcome entrance by providing new seats, an exercise area for dogs, and emu art. This has increased tourist traffic in the area, with visitors making use of parking facilities and using the rubbish bins provided, reducing roadside litter.

The redevelopment at Constellation Park, including a skate park with BBQ facilities, was designed in consultation with youth and the community. It is now a hive of activity. Following demolition of the leaky old pool, a new, smaller swimming pool was commissioned, boosting community use and saving water. The Yilgarn History Museum continues to evolve as a wonderful model for the presentation of their unique local heritage collection, and the tip shop and landfill site is a credit to the town for its design, management and operations. These community assets are outstanding achievements for the small community of 600 people, as well as demonstrating what can be achieved through consultation.



Port and South Hedland

Port and South Hedland has an impressive folio of projects that are being undertaken in the town, with recognition to the efforts of the Care for Hedland Environmental Association. The work being done to continue and improve ongoing projects, including the Turtle monitoring program demonstrates how local citizen science is supported in the area. The West End Greening Project (\$3 million) has resulted in transforming an area of town with new turf, landscaping, native trees, seating, and signage and has taken place with strong community and business engagement. The renaming of a popular park to Strike Park acknowledges the Kariyarra and Njamal people and the 1946 Pilbara station action by workers.

Litter clean-up events over the year involved over 3600 volunteers from business, mining groups and the community resulted in removing 2.5 tonnes of litter from the environment. The Care for Hedland Container Deposit refund point has collected over 6 million containers in one year of operation as well as providing employment to over twenty people. Community initiatives such as the Pink Pilbara Breakfast, Art workshops and Harmony Day are vibrant and well supported. The judges were impressed by Kohbi and Kaydon's project to reduce landfill by reclaiming and repurposing used stationery; and Braydon Rae's, Town of Port Hedland Youth Citizen of the Year, efforts in leading and mentoring children at the Kids Garden Club.

Category winners

Communities can enter multiple projects in the award categories. Judges focus on a key project and take into consideration all supporting projects.





Winner

City of Karratha

Compost Trial 7 Mile Waste Facility

'Being the only composting trial in the Pilbara, this is a shining example of what can be achieved with innovation and endeavour.'

Rohan Swan, Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities judge



A trial of open windrow dry climate composting started in July 2020. This common method of composting places green waste in long windrows (laid in rows and exposed to the wind) and turned regularly. It is a great example of a 'closed loop' system, diverting waste from landfill and turning

it into useful compost, with no waste. Before the trial, large amounts of organic material from the city's maintenance and cyclone preparation activities and food waste from mining camps was being sent to landfill.

So far, the project has diverted 500 tonnes of green waste and food organics from landfill and produced 1,200 cubic metres of mulch and soil conditioner. The mulch is being used in landscaping operations, providing a significant saving by reducing imports from distant suppliers. The results have buoyed the council to continue the project after the trial with the aim of providing further education to mining camps to avoid the contamination of food waste in the future.

The city is progressing to the next stage, producing greater volumes of mulch and soil conditioner for sale to other Pilbara local governments as well as moving towards meeting Australian Standards to enable the products to be sold to residents for household use.

Finalists

Albany

If you toss, it's the planet's loss and Keep Albany Beautiful

Rhonda Appleton and her family, Jennifer and Debbie and brother-in-law Len, collect hundreds of bags of rubbish each year from around Albany's Brig Amity historic ship, which attracts many tourists. They search through reeds near the edge of the pond that trap litter, and pick out many small pieces of plastic and other rubbish. They have created a Facebook page titled If you toss, it's the planet's loss, and post information and photos of litter they collect to encourage others to keep the environment clean and tidy.

Members of Keep Albany Beautiful (KAB) attend community events to promote litter prevention, including the Adopt-a-Spot program. Albany has 64 Adopt-a-Spot groups registered and KAB provides litter collection kits, for people who have chosen a favourite site to do regular clean-ups.





Boddington

Community litter reduction

The Boddington Reduce, Reuse, Recycle team aims to reduce litter and promote waste management through education, recycling, access to waste facilities and reuse initiatives. The team was concerned that waste had to be transported long distances for recycling. Starting small by offering a drop-off recycling point at the library for residents, the project has now evolved to include a recycling plant and drop-off shed. This facility enables people to bring materials at the end of their useful life for recycling, where volunteers sort the items. In March 2021, a plastic shredder was installed. Items such as PPE, including hats from mining companies and polyester strapping, are processed and repurposed instead of going to landfill. Car bumpers from a panel beater in Wandering are also being collected and recycled. In 2020, RRR received a KABC litter grant to purchase a washup trailer, reducing the amount of single-use plastic items people use at events.

City of Busselton

Vintner's RATS (Residents Against Trashing Streets)

Volunteer community group, Vintner's RATS (Residents Against Trashing Streets), is dedicated to picking up litter and enhancing the visual amenity and protecting the natural environment around Busselton. In 2021, Vintner's RATS were acknowledged as the largest community group to register for Clean Up Australia Day nationally. This year, Vintner's RATS collected over 300 bags of rubbish and recyclable material from roadsides. Coordinator Ralph Upton is credited with growing the group from four people in 2008 to 125 participants this year. Vintner's RATS hope that by taking action and being noticed at the Clean Up Australia Day event each year, they will inspire and empower people to continue to keep their unique local environment beautiful. Their activities no doubt contributed towards Busselton being named the winner of the GWN7 Top Tourism Town Award in 2021.



Geraldton

Gero Clean Up Crew

Formed in 2019, the Gero Clean Up Crew continues to grow in strength and volunteer numbers under the leadership of Lisa Bickley.

Lisa manages the growing numbers of volunteers engaged in cleaning up the streets and neighbourhoods of Geraldton. Information about clean-ups and the team's efforts is posted on their Facebook page, encouraging the community to get involved. This has resulted in more volunteers joining the crew and more areas being cleared and kept litter free.

The crew's activities have now expanded to tackling the invasive toxic weed, *Verbesina encelioides* – often referred to as golden crownbeard.

Southern Cross

New landfill site and tip shop

This initiative in Southern Cross was inspired by a visit to a previous Tidy Towns state winner, Toodyay. The landfill site is an area out of town which presents as clean and well organised on arrival. A new tip shop in a shed has been set up to organise reusable items, reducing the amount of goods going to landfill. Electronic goods are recycled and green waste is turned into mulch and made available for local residents.

Judges were impressed with the facility, organisation and approach to creating a well ordered and managed space. The community is now looking for a name for its tip shop!





Young legends

Recognises achievement by an individual or groups of young people who have contributed to the sustainability of their community

Winner Cunderdin

Youth Council – Youth Events



The Cunderdin Youth Council (CYC) provides an excellent model for other small rural communities wanting to involve young people in community activities. The six student representatives who make up the CYC demonstrate teamwork, advocacy and enthusiasm in managing youth-led events and initiatives in the wheatbelt town. The CYC has simultaneously contributed to the sustainability of Cunderdin and developed the students' leadership skills and experience.

The youth representatives seek ways to engage and listen to the opinions and ideas of other young people in designing and implementing their range of youth activities, including partnerships with the school, shire, community resource centre and police.

The events they managed were well attended and positively received. They certainly achieved their aim of 'making Cunderdin a great place for youth to live, learn and earn'.

Finalists

Albany

Olivia Finn

Olivia Finn is still a high school student, but she is already one of Albany's most effective community champions, with over 230 volunteer hours to her credit during the past 12 months. Olivia is a Youth Board Member for the Albany Community Foundation, which supports people experiencing financial hardship. She founded the St Joseph's College Sustainability Club and runs meetings and facilitates change to reduce the environmental impact of her college. The school's use of paper has declined, and bins for recycling and food scraps have been made available for staff and students. As a result, general waste has decreased significantly compared to previous year. Olivia's fellow students have supported her sustainability efforts.





Boddington

Adrian Smalberger and 'Terry the Tree'

Terry the Tree is an idea developed by 12-year-old Adrian Smalberger, a student at Boddington District High School. Adrian wanted to reduce the amount of food scraps going into yellow-lidded bins and contaminating the recycling process.

He developed an education program to teach children and the public to use recycling bins correctly. Adrian spent hours making his own costume (a green tree) and flyers as well as creating a catchy message – 'Food in the green, cans in yellow, do the right thing, be a good fellow'. He hopes other communities will embrace his concept, ultimately reducing the amount of recyclable material going to landfill.

Boyup Brook

St Mary's Catholic School

Senior students – working with the community resource centre – created a recycling hub drop-off point at St Mary's school. The students designed signage and sourced and repurposed a second-hand cupboard as their new hub, placing it in the school carpark. The hub is available for community use 24/7. The students also collect and recycle pens and pencils, coffee pods, bread tags, batteries and plastic bottle lids.

They participate in a Pay it Forward program, undertaking voluntary community work, including helping at the Containers for Change refund point and doing public speaking. In addition, they hold 'nude food' lunches, sorting waste into different bins to join the appropriate waste streams.



Port and South Hedland

Baydon Rae

Nine-year-old Baydon is a leader and mentor at the Kids Garden Club, where peer-to-peer learning focuses on gardening activities and seasonal maintenance. Baydon produces and sells local seeds and plants and gives technical gardening advice to new gardeners touring the garden. He has a passion for the science side of horticulture and encourages others to understand and appreciate the importance of insects and growing clean food. Baydon is a member of the Waste Warrior Team at his school. The team conduct regular litter audits, maintain classroom compost and recycling collections, and promote the zero-waste message. Baydon also collects litter and eligible beverage containers from his street. In 2021, he was awarded the Town of Port Hedland Youth Citizen of the Year Award.

City of Busselton

Vasse Primary School – the Paper Bricks Project

The whole of Vasse Primary School in the south-west supports the Paper Bricks Project. It started in 2020 when a Year 5 student and an Education Assistant decided to use shredded paper from the administration office to make paper bricks for wood fires during the cold winter months. The idea quickly caught on and the moulded bricks (briquettes) are now sold to the school community as sustainable firelighters. The project, which can be duplicated by other schools, is an innovative example of a 'closed loop' waste management system that incorporates a fundraising model.





Winner

Cuballing

Yornaning Dam rehabilitation Phase 1-4



The Yornaning Dam was used historically to supply water to steam locomotives on the Albany–Perth railway. Now the 72-hectare reserve around the dam plays an important part in reducing dryland salinity and acts as a natural filter system for water entering the catchment from surrounding farms.

In 2018, the Shire of Cuballing received State NRM funding to rehabilitate the reserve over four phases which had become

degraded and infested with invasive weeds such as bridal creeper and cape tulip. Under the project, walk trail bollards were installed, interpretive signs were erected, and volunteers planted more than 3,000 native seedlings. A new boardwalk enables people to cross the aquatic ecosystem freely in summer and protects new growth from foot traffic.

In 2020/21, the shire installed walk trail markers and an all-weather boardwalk on the southern end of the catchment pan. An impressive playground with shade sails and BBQ facilities encourages visits by families. The bollards, fencing and new tracks have succeeded in restricting access by 4WD vehicles, which had previously damaged the bushland.

As a result, native plants have regenerated and native animals, such as echidnas and chuditches, are in evidence.

Finalists

Carnamah

Post Cyclone Seroja – salmon gums planting

When Cyclone Seroja struck the Midwest town of Carnamah in April 2021, many of the local trees were destroyed, some as old as 300 years. Paulina Wittwer – a keen birdwatcher, painter and environmentalist – understood the environmental and aesthetic value of the many old salmon gums that were destroyed, no longer able to provide shade or habitat for birds and native animals, so set about replacing them. In June 2021, using her own funds, Paulina purchased 600 salmon gums and gimlets from a local grower in Mingenew and approached farmers to distribute them. Promotion by the Shire of Carnamah in the *Carnamah Mat and Eneabba News* helped spread the word and 12 farmers took up her offer. This project is a great example of local leadership, driven by Paulina's passion and care for the natural landscape.





Collie

Reviving the Collie River

This project has helped restore parts of the Collie River and the surrounding environment. The Shire of Collie replaced two old wooden weirs at Venn Street and Robbs Rocks, constructed a new weir, raising the water level, and formed a canoe shoot to attract more visitors. A sealed asphalt river walk was established at Soldiers' Park continuing all along the river to Minninup.

Friends of the River continued their revegetation and weed-clearing works along the river banks, assisted by a \$30,000 grant over three years from mining company South 32.

The increased water levels are helping in the fight against aquatic weeds (nardoo and typhus) and the river walk has provided accessibility to people to enjoy this restored recreational space.

Dumbleyung

Activation and rehabilitating degraded lands in the wheatbelt

Dryland salinity is one of the great environmental threats facing WA's wheatbelt. Landcare, the Shire of Dumbleyung and other groups, including Activate the Wheatbelt, Trillion Trees and local farmers, are tackling this problem head on and are achieving good results. In July 2020, Activate the Wheatbelt, Dumbleyung Landcare Inc. and 150 volunteers planted 40,000 seedlings on four salinity-affected farming properties.

This was a significant planting. These plantings are already helping the visual appearance of the land and will have future benefits. Claudia Hadlow (Dumbleyung Landcare) and Amber Bateup (Activate the Wheatbelt) are to be congratulated for their outstanding leadership of this project.



Greenbushes

Green Day Out

The Greenbushes 'Green Day Out' event focused on getting the whole community involved and showcased minimalist living trends, and waste and recycling. International speaker Rebecca Prince-Ruiz gave an insight into how the plastic-free movement has grown over the past 10 years and participants were encouraged to take the pledge for Plastic Free July.

Workshops and activities included practical gardening and permaculture advice, farm cheese-making demonstrations, lip balm making, an edible weeds tour of the garden and a pop-up shop showcasing many plastic-free alternatives to common daily items. The event was plastic free.

Port and South Hedland

Volunteer Flatback Turtle Monitoring Program

Care for Hedland's community-based turtle monitoring program has been running for 18 consecutive years, providing significant data about the flatback sea turtles which nest on beaches in Port Hedland. In 2020-21, 139 volunteers participated in turtle monitoring and recorded 1,194 volunteer hours. The scientific team collected data for a total of 42 nights between October and December 2020. They tagged 17 new turtles and took 104 DNA samples which are used to identify close-kin relationships. Vibration loggers were employed for the first time as part of a University of Western Australia PhD study to gather hatchling data and the 'spoil bank' of excess sand was monitored to further understand turtle nesting habits in areas impacted by humans. The data collected will be used to assess the status of the species when determining the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List category.





Winner

Boyup Brook

War on waste



In collaboration with other community groups, the Boyup Brook Community Resource Centre has undertaken a range of sustainability and waste reduction initiatives which is making a difference to the Boyup Brook community. The centre's recycling hub alone has diverted 235 kg of waste from landfill. Between June 2020 and July 2021, this has included 12,000 Nespresso coffee pods, almost 14,000 bread tags, 3.8 kg of pens and pencils, 650 g of contact lenses, 1 kg of crayons, hair care products and stamps, 27 mobile phones, 3 kg of oral care products, 75.9 kg of batteries, and bags and bags of soft plastics.

The centre also has a water refill station available for hire for local events, provided through a KABC litter grant. People at three events filled up on 212 litres of water through the system, avoiding the use of about 640 medium-sized, single-use plastic containers.

Fifty-five people attended a plastic-free morning tea, encouraging community pledges for the Plastic Free July Challenge. Rebecca Prince-Ruiz, the founder of Plastic Free July, was the keynote speaker. Twenty-three attendees went on to make a pledge to reduce their usage of single-use plastics.

At a community clean-up organised by the resource centre and Girl Guides, 5 bags of rubbish were collected at the recreation grounds. Recyclable items were separated, reducing the waste to three bags. Eligible empty containers were donated to Containers for Change – managed by the Lions Club – for a 10c refund, cardboard and paper went into the shire's recycling programs, and soft plastics, pens and plastic bottle lids were recycled using the recycling hub.

Finalists

City of Karratha

Yaburara Heritage Trail weed management and planting sessions

The Yaburara walking trail covers rugged country with some steep climbs and features a number of Aboriginal sites including rock engravings and artefact scatters. The 3.5km trail has become a very popular attraction for locals and visitors alike. With increased usage, introduced weeds, have spread along the trail.

The Stars Foundation planted 1,300 plants at the Maitland Lookout in Bulgara. The activities have led to a safer and more defined trail to reduce the risk of weeds spreading but also to prevent people damaging heritage sites by walking off the defined trail. They have also led to a successful partnership and ongoing collaboration on environmental projects with the Clontarf Academy and Stars Foundation, during which students learn to identify and eradicate weeds, maintain walking tracks and gain experience in ranger and horticultural work.





Kalbarri

No more plastic is fantastic

Yvonne McKenzie's Year 2/3 students learnt about the oceans of the world as part of the science curriculum. The class looked at the human impacts on the environment, especially relevant to this coastal town. Students were inspired to explore how their own behaviour could reduce single-use plastics. They wrote letters to the principal asking for three changes to be made to reduce single-use plastics in the canteen. Students and adult volunteers designed two eye-catching art works from bottle tops, and the boards were displayed at the Northampton Show.

The class assembly item, Plastic Ocean, was a fabulous way to spread the message to the entire school community. Their script and song reflected the need for behaviour change to clear our marine environment of plastic final message encouraged the audience to find alternatives to single-use items.

Martu Farm – Red Dirt Blue Sky

Keeping Martu Farm beautiful through SWEET education and leadership

Martu Farm delivers education and support to marginalised people through the development of technical environmental skills. The SWEET (Supported Wellbeing Employment Education) program provides horticulture and aquaculture training to Martu people. They undertake training in making compost, developing good soil, propagating plants from seed and cuttings, developing and maintaining aquaponic systems and wider skills such as first aid, literacy and numeracy, and driver training. Participants assist with 'Transforming Agriculture in The Pilbara' trials run by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, alongside scientists developing methods to grow commercial crops in drier climates. They provide products for sale in the nursery shop that support the program, making it a sustainable venture. This is a great example of the use of environmental education to improve the lives of participants and the wellbeing of the community.



Newman

Bin tagging and recycling education

In 2020, there was little recycling education in Newman, and bin contamination rates were as high as 80 per cent, with little separation of materials. The shire took action to get recycling back on track, launching the 'Roadmap to Recycling' with the objective of reducing contamination rates. The shire ran school incursions, workshops, social media and had a presence at local events that included information, resources and games centred around how to improve recycling of products that had reached the end of their useful life.

To measure the effectiveness of the education program, a bin tagging program targeted 600 kerbside recycling bins. In the first round of bin tagging in April 2021, contamination rates dropped by half. It is estimated that 260 tonnes of material will be diverted from landfill each year due to Newman's recycling efforts.

Shire of Augusta Margaret River – Undalup Association

Cultural fire workshops – fire stick farming

In an effort to promote environmentally sustainable practices in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, the Undalup Association hosted three cultural fire workshops in 2021. The aim was to help people better manage their land and for local government bodies to better manage local ecosystems, reducing bushfire risk. Fire is an essential environmental land management tool for Indigenous peoples. The controlled burn land management practice, called fire stick farming, was traditionally used on Country by Wadandi people during the Djeran (fire) season in April–May. Wadandi Rangers, Elder Dr Wayne Webb and custodian Iszaac Webb shared their knowledge at the workshops.





Heritage and culture

Recognises a community's outstanding commitment to the conservation and celebration of Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage and culture

Winner

Norseman

The Woodlands Cultural, Community and Visitor Centre



The Woodlands Cultural, Community and Visitor Centre is a three year creation from a derelict building to a visually appealing and welcoming community hub. The interpretive centre captures the rich cultural heritage of the Ngadju people, the contributions of non-Indigenous settlers, mining and pastoral industries to the area, and the environmental uniqueness of the Great Western Woodlands. The interpretation of these three aspects of community and history has created one of the most attractive and informative interpretative sites in WA. The quality and communication effectiveness of exhibits, panels and art installations are world class.

The transformation of the building into a community hub where tourists and locals are welcomed and where people learn and connect is improving the sense of wellbeing and belonging for residents. It is used by local groups and enhances the engagement of visitors to Norseman by promoting the culture, heritage and environmental significance of the area in informative and artistic displays.

The centre has helped move Norseman from a 'facility' stop to a popular tourism destination. Recordings (bird sounds and Welcome to Country) enhance the immediate appeal of the centre. Commitments in the final installation phase include a significant mural and a nature playground.

Finalists

Albany

Restoration and repurposing of historic town hall

Modern technology has brought new life to Albany's iconic town hall. The repurposed hall, opened in December 2020 hosts a wide variety of visual and performance arts, collections, exhibitions and community uses. In April 2021, the Relaunch Festival was held to encourage residents to view the upgrades and enjoy the attractions.

The restoration cost \$3.75 million, with contributions from Lotterywest, the Great Southern Development Commission, the Australian Government and the Art Gallery of WA. Since the opening, nine volunteers have helped to support exhibitions and events. The hall is now more accessible to locals and visitors and offers a wider range of experiences.





Carnamah

Museum upgrade

George and Pam Fowler, lifetime members of the Carnamah Historical Society, have made their mark on the museum's upgrade. George put most of the new cabinets together by himself and both spent many hours relabelling the displays. The cabinets and new flooring were funded by the Lions Club. Two bright rooms of treasures display local heritage and culture, and pieces that are sought after by national and international collections.

Careful curation makes it easy to find themes of interest. The museum is an important institution in the wheatbelt town of Carnamah. George, Pam and others in the historical society have created a lasting legacy for visitors wanting to get a great insight into WA's past.



Boyup Brook

District High School yarning circle

Yarning circles are a traditional part of Aboriginal culture. The Boyup Brook District High School created a yarning circle to acknowledge the traditions of Aboriginal culture and allow students to gather, share stories and create a sense of belonging. The yarning circle was opened on 2 July 2021 by Christine Latham, a First Nations Woman, artist and former teacher at the school.

Landscaping of the circle includes granite rocks for seating, a fire pit with unique artwork, six Noongar season murals and 3D printed Noongar names around a native plants and bush tucker garden. The area was designed and landscaped by Suzanne and Morris Mead Art teacher and artist-in-residence Meriol Beatty worked with students to create the vibrant season murals displayed in the area.



Mullewa

125-year celebrations

COVID may have postponed Mullewa's 125-year celebrations but when they finally came together in March 2021, the celebrations were a big hit. Projects included a memorial for unmarked graves at the Pioneer Cemetery and a local history display in the town hall. The local swimming pool was renamed Doc Docherty Pool in honour of the founder of the town's popular wildflower show, and Regional Arts WA funded the creation of a community mosaic that was coordinated by the town's community resource centre. The design, which incorporates the 125-year logo, also recognises Aboriginal culture.

The memorial wall at the cemetery was inspired by more than 20 years of research by volunteer and Honorary Freeman Clem Keeffee. Together with pioneers of the district, the memorial wall honours the Yamatji people.

Shire of Augusta Margaret River – Undalup Association

Undalup Bunuru Festival 2021

The Undalup Bunuru Festival promotes the importance of local community culture as well as traditional Wadandi traditions, bringing together families and individuals for music, craft, dance, education and celebration. The successful festival, supported by Act Belong Commit and the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, was held in 2021 at Prevelly Beach, in Margaret River. The smoke and alcohol-free event encouraged a sense of unity and belonging. Volunteers worked together to promote harmony, inclusivity and respect. 'Without unity, you don't get community', said Wadandi cultural custodian, Iszaac Webb.





Winner

Gnowangerup

Horsepower Highway



The Horsepower Highway is a 75-km trail of tractors of varying generations and conditions, running from the Broomehill turn-off, through the Gnowangerup township into the Stirling Range National Park (home of Bluff Knoll). The community progress group GNP360 is the force behind the project which set out to create an interesting and attractive trail to entice visitors.

There are 19 quirky tractors installed and visitors are encouraged to use an interactive map, to learn about each tractor, the area they are in and some history or heritage of the district.

The Horsepower Highway is an amazing example of a whole-community project, involving individuals, community groups, cultural groups, businesses, and local and state government organisations. The project has been developed and funded entirely by 130 volunteers, 14 businesses and 11 heirloom machinery donations within the Shire of Gnowangerup.

Another part of the project was to save the town's only grocery store and create an artwork mural that highlighted unique features of the region.

Finalists

Boddington

LARP and Medieval Festival

Live action role-playing (LARP) games, where costumed participants act out their characters, have become a hit all over the world. Boddington, is now home to the WA LARP group. A local property owner provides the land, and the shire has provided two sea containers to support the group, which holds three day LARP conventions six times a year.

Most of the costumes are made by players. Some of the events include sword-fighting, shooting catapults, live music, traditional dancing and craft making. Age, gender and background are not considered when deciding roles and participation can help with personal development, creativity, and increased mental health and wellbeing.

Up to 250 people have attended each event (about 1,500 people a year), with the numbers increasing annually. LARP events are good for business, bringing more people into stores and local businesses.





Collie

Collie River Valley Bulletin

A local paper is the heartbeat of a town and the new Collie River Valley Bulletin and is an outstanding example of community action. During the COVID-19 lockdown, Collie's only local newspaper closed down, a significant loss in a regional town.

Five former *Collie Mail* staff, with Bendigo Bank providing seed money, pooled their resources and skills to set up a locally owned newspaper called *The Bulletin*. As volunteers, working from home they produced their first hardcopy newspaper in September 2020. After just four months of operations, they were able to open an office in the town. The Bulletin currently has five paid staff producing both print and online versions.

Greenbushes

Folk Club

The best thing about singing or playing an instrument is joining in with others. This is where the Greenbushes Folk Club comes in. Lee Goodall and Irma Lachmund formed the club in September 2020 and it was recently recognised as a mental health support group. The club meets and plays fortnightly, including under a tree in the local park. Lee and Irma encourage everyone to join them, no matter what their ability and to participate however they wish. The club provides an opportunity for performers to get up and showcase their talents with an open mic session, while also providing an outlet for talented 'bush poets' to enjoy performing for the public. Judges were impressed by their ability, connection to the community and their plans to hold the inaugural Greenbushes Acoustic and Art Festival in September.



Kalgoorlie–Boulder

KBULG's community projects

Kalgoorlie–Boulder Urban Landcare Group delivers a variety of public awareness, education and action programs that involve the entire community, including schools, businesses and TAFE.

The landcare group receives strong support from the City, industry partners, including Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines.

The group consistently increases volunteer participation and engagement in community activities and events. Examples include the Clean Up Kalgoorlie–Boulder Day, school holiday activities and National Tree Planting Day.

Wongan Hills

Co-located sport and recreation centre

With much community support, up to 14 sports have been relocated to the new Wongan Hills sports, recreation and community complex. Previously, many sporting groups within the town had been struggling with ageing facilities. The \$6 million complex, which opened in 2020, received funding and in-kind support from within the town and beyond.

Gym membership doubled with the opening of the new facility. Waterwise native gardens and a modern playground enhance the centre. The final stage will be relocating the town's bowling club. The project also focused on the environment, with recycled water used to irrigate ovals and sporting fields, and LED technology contributing to energy efficiency.





General appearance

Recognises improvements to a community's general appearance including entries and approaches to town, sporting areas, public parks and gardens, private homes and streets, including footpaths and verges

Winner

Donnybrook

Heritage Goods Shed Interpretive Centre and Station Square



Donnybrook's varied and colourful heritage was celebrated in June 2021 with the opening of Station Square and the Donnybrook Heritage Goods Shed Interpretive Centre. Working with many stakeholders, the shire transformed the heritage-listed Railway Heritage Precinct in a \$2.3 million project that connects the east and west sides of the town over the railway track, alongside a vibrant community space. The interpretive centre, which includes a cafe, was

lovingly renovated in line with the requirements of the WA Heritage Council. The town's heritage and history are showcased in a series of information panels on the walls of the shed, interactive digital media displays, and displays of historical artefacts.

Community members chose the name 'Station Square' for the area adjacent to the goods shed, which features exposed railway lines, picnic shelters and seating built to match the look and dimensions of railway carriages. Judges said the attention to detail in linking with the area's railway history was exceptional. The project included new boardwalks, a donated historical crane and landscaping. An old goods carriage from Railway Heritage WA and the South West Rail and Heritage Centre recognises 150 years of Railway Western Australia. Local artist 'Papa Giuseppe' painted the carriage while keeping in context its age and patina. The revitalisation of the area provides visitors with a reason to rediscover this town in south-west WA.

Finalists

Dunsborough

The Telstra Block and Hannay Lane revitalisation

Facelifts have transformed two once-neglected areas in the heart of Dunsborough. The Dunsborough Progress Association was the prime mover in bringing the projects to fruition. The beautified areas now encourage pedestrians. The Telstra Block, previously a fenced-off dirt carpark, was enhanced in collaboration with the City of Busselton, Telstra and a \$8,000 grant from the RAC. It is now a visually appealing area with pedestrian access and community seating. Hannay Lane, long overlooked, connects two of Dunsborough's main streets. The progress association, local businesses and a \$50,000 grant from the RAC facilitated the transformation of the laneway into a vibrant thoroughfare with upgraded parking, road repairs, recycled concrete planters and a colourful walkway decorated with paintings by local artists.





Jarlmadangah Burru Aboriginal Community

Living in a clean community

Visitors to the remote community of Jarlmadangah Burru, about 90 km south-east of Derby, feel uplifted by recent changes. This year, the community continued its tidy town journey towards a clean, neat and beautiful place to live. Plans are afoot for a commercial kitchen, tree and nursery plantings, and relocation of the play equipment. A striking mural was just painted on the old water tank prior to the judging visit as a welcoming statement.

Rubbish and overgrown trees were removed from around the main entrance, offices and garden. Nine car bodies and other scrap metal were removed and old fences repaired.

Nyikina Mangala Rangers continue to collect rubbish from the community and when they are out on Country. The new organised cleanliness has boosted the spirits of locals and visitors alike.

Newman

Sustainable litter collection, Great Northern Clean Up and street blitz

Newman set out to remove litter from the community and increase the connectedness, pride and wellbeing of residents. The Sustainable Litter Collection program started in 2014 with the Shire of East Pilbara donating \$2,000 to a group to undertake four litter clean-ups each month. \$168,000 has been donated to Newman clubs as a result of their efforts. The program aims to maintain a clean and healthy environment and mobilises the community to do so with an incentive.

In the Great Northern Clean Up 2020, volunteers removed 1.5 tonnes of general waste and 2,500 beverage containers, with \$145 donated to the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service. Newman Futures ran the two-day East Newman Street Blitz to clean up unsightly front yards and public areas. Encouraged by recycling games for kids and a BBQ, about 80 residents filled 6 skip bins with rubbish and returned 4,000 beverage containers in the successful blitz.



Southern Cross

Town development

The welcome town entrance project, new swimming pool and redevelopment of Constellation Park were outstanding achievements for a community fewer than 700 people. The entrance point to the community has been upgraded as an attractive stopping area with the installation of turf, tables, seating and emu art. Roadworks and curbing have been completed.

The town's ageing swimming pool was replaced with a 25 metre water-efficient aquatic centre, with changing rooms and BBQ area. The redevelopment of Constellation Park, carried out through consultation with the community, included a skate park and playground.

Two water tanks were installed to use stormwater for irrigating grass, and solar-powered LED lighting was used throughout the park.

Yarloop

Steam workshops redevelopment

Bushfire almost destroyed the town of Yarloop in January 2016. However, the community is growing back. Among the facilities lost in the fire were the original timber mill railway workshops. These iconic workshops were an integral part of the community's heritage. The Yarloop Workshop committee and volunteers have begun to restore, repair and refurbish items that were salvaged from the workshops.

These will be incorporated under a new master plan for the site's redevelopment, which will focus on community development, tourism and respect for the past and future of the site. The town's industrial history, timber milling history, people, and the bushfire will all feature in the proposed interpretive centre.





Containers for Change Award

sponsored by WA Return Recycle Renew Ltd (WARRRL)

Recognises the community impact in the first year of operation Containers for Change

Port and South Hedland

Care for Hedland Environmental Association

Care for Hedland, which has a long association with litter prevention, was appointed as the refund point operator for Port and South Hedland. It is an outstanding example of how Containers for Change can benefit the community.

The Containers for Change depot employs 22 people (two full time) and has seven regular volunteers – a great example of a commercial enterprise having a significant social impact. Staff and volunteers include people with a disability, previously long-term unemployed people, Aboriginal women and people from culturally diverse backgrounds. The depot also gives staff and volunteers, in particular people with a disability, a meaningful place to be and the opportunity to develop personal and workplace skills.

As at 1 July 2021, Containers for Change Hedland had processed five million containers. \$465,893 has been refunded to residents and \$32,613 donated to local charities and community groups. Care for Hedland should be proud of their efforts and their achievements, both commercially and socially.



Leadership Award

Australian Institute of Management WA

Kim Eckert

Kalgoorlie–Boulder
Urban Landcare Group (KBULG)



‘Kim’s leadership in achieving environmental activity through partnerships with council and business conveys a passion and commitment to protect and enhance Kalgoorlie–Boulder’s unique environment, especially the Great Western Woodlands. This is made possible by outstanding leadership by KBULG and particularly their CEO, and the strong focus on mobilising and retaining volunteers.’

Peter Kenyon,
Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards judge

Litter Legend

Bob Taylor



Bob Taylor has been collecting litter across WA since 1962, filling almost 5,000 bags in total. Relocating to Geraldton from Northampton in 2018, he quickly became a valued member of the Gero Clean Up Crew. So far, Bob, who is

78 years of age, has collected over 1,500 bags of litter around Geraldton. The results are in – 25 KABC orange pick-up bags for every kilometre on the North West Coastal Highway in 2018, down to nine bags per kilometre in 2021 – so something good must be working in the Windy City!

Using his own vehicle, Bob keeps 51 km of roadside around Geraldton free of litter. Among the types of rubbish he has collected over the years are tyres, mattresses, carpet, plastic, 200-litre drums, eskies, pillows and clothing.

Liaising with the city’s Waste Management Officer in Geraldton, Bob collects on average two bags of litter a day. He is truly impressive and the Keep Australia Beautiful Council is grateful for being such an outstanding role model in keeping his town clean of other people’s litter.



Judges

Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards 2021 Judges, have a range of sustainable, environmental and community expertise.

'For 15 years I have had the privilege of being invited to visit communities as part of the judging process. The passion, resourcefulness and 'can do' attitudes of regional community members inspires me, as they share the diverse array of initiatives undertaken to support their growth and wellbeing. I love debating the amazing projects when advocating for communities at the state judging panel.'

Jo Ferguson, Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities judge

Sam Culbertson

Sam is a Programs Officer at Keep Australia Beautiful. Having worked as a school educator, Sam is keen to see what schools are doing for their communities in youth led projects.

Joanne Ferguson

Joanne is Keep Australia Beautiful's longest serving judge with fifteen years experience. Joanne has a background in environmental science and community communications and education, with a focus on sustainability and waste management. Joanne lives in the Hills near Perth, but feels at home out in the regions.

Jon Brand

Jon has spent over 30 years working as an Ecogologist and Forester and brings extensive environmental knowledge to the Awards. He has a keen interest in seeing natural ecosystems in regional Western Australia restored.

Vicki Brand

A career involving working on native plants at the State Herbarium enabled Vicki to travel to many regional communities, where she enjoyed the richness of our unique WA culture. Vicki wants to support towns to thrive.

Teresa Hartnell

A Keep Australia Beautiful volunteer, Teresa has been a co-judge since 2018. Teresa is a business owner and lives in regional WA. Teresa has a passion for community development.

Peter Kenyon

Peter is CEO, Bank of Ideas, and has exceptional knowledge of regional development, offering his insights to communities to encourage sustainable outcomes. Peter has been involved with the Awards since 2017 and was the Western Australian Senior of the year in 2017.

Shirley Brindley

Is the Program Manager of the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards WA and has eight years experience of assessing communities and projects. Having grown up on a farm in Scotland, Shirley has an interest in issues faced by regional communities. She has a postgraduate diploma in Human Rights and works with regional and remote communities in their litter prevention and sustainable initiatives.

Maureen Maher

For 10 years Maureen held the position of Communications and Programs Coordinator for Keep Australia Beautiful WA and worked with communities on programs to promote litter prevention and sustainability. Maureen is a passionate community builder, and works as an independent consultant across a range of projects and organisations, including Neighbourhood Connect, Community Minded Kids, Cooking From Home and the Tangaroa Blue Foundation.

Les Brindley

Has six years' experience of assisting in regional visits and assessing projects. Les is a TAFE lecturer and a community volunteer, helping to integrate members back into the community.

Roselt Croeser

Roselt is a semi-retired mining engineer and has lived in regional locations for 8 years. He has a strong interest in sustainability which is expressed in his owner built solar passive house and electric bike project. He is a keen gardener, with an interest in wild gardens that incorporate edible plants and attracts birds and other wild life.

Kylie Payne

Kylie has enjoyed being involved in a variety of Landcare and environmental roles with state and local government and community Landcare groups from the Perth Hills to the Goldfields, the Midwest, the South West and the Great Southern. Kylie loves travelling in our great state and meeting and networking with people who are doing inspiring work on their patch and in their communities.

Rohan Swan

Rohan is Senior Project Officer with Keep Australia Beautiful. His main role is coordinating litter prevention projects with major KABC partners such as Main Roads WA and Local Governments. Rohan has a Bachelor of Science in Coastal Geomorphology and has a particular interest in marine debris research and prevention.

Megan Mentz

Megan is a sustainability educator with the Australia Association of Environmental Education (AAEE). She is the program manager for Little Green Steps, a sustainability education program for Early Years Centres. Megan has a degree in Archaeology, has taught History and English in secondary school and has a passion for educating young people in sustainability.

The Keep Australia Beautiful Council, a statutory body, has a wide range of functions, including to 'safeguard the character and beauty of the Australian landscape', and to 'preserve and improve the appearance of our environment'.

The iconic Tidy Towns awards recognise and reward sustainable community initiatives and litter-free environments.

The awards bring communities together and contributes to the sustainability of regional and remote towns.





We encourage you to get your community involved in the Awards.

Start recording projects now and visit our website (www.kabc.wa.gov.au) for more information and ideas.



Keep Australia Beautiful Council seeks to change littering behaviour through programs, enforcement, education, incentives, infrastructure and communication strategies.





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