Sustainable development tool, affordable housing strategy win top planning award

Best practice local council plans also win gongs at Planning Institute of Australia Awards

Thursday, November 4, 2010: Planning for increasing and affordable housing and urban expansion and renewal in local government areas have emerged as themes among winning projects at the Planning Institute of Australia’s (PIA) NSW Planning Excellence Awards, held last night in Pyrmont.

The Awards Presentation organised by the peak body for planners was held at the 6 Green Star Doltone House Darling Island Wharf and was attended by Planning Minister Tony Kelly and Opposition Planning spokesman Brad Hazzard.

Landcom and the team behind BASIX were co-winners of the President’s Award for PRECINX, a unique tool to determine sustainability of large, multiple-dwelling and mixed-use development projects in the early stages of design. The President’s Award also went to Clarence Valley Council’s Affordable Housing Strategy — a timely reminder of the increasing cost of living in Australia’s most expensive state.

PRECINX was developed for Landcom by sustainability consultants Kinesis, working with architects Simpson + Wilson and planners SGS Economics and Planning. Landcom Director of Sustainability and Policy, Stephen Driscoll, said PRECINX will help planners and developers make a huge leap in planning for sustainable places. “Many of the opportunities to make significant sustainability gains occur at the neighbourhood scale rather than house by house or building by building,” Mr Driscoll said.

The other top award winning project, The Clarence Valley Affordable Housing Strategy, has resulted in significant funding from federal and state bodies for increasing access to affordable housing in the northern NSW local government area comprising 44 towns and villages spread across more than 10,000km2. Clarence Valley Council has fast-tracked the release of subsidised land for purchase, is assisting in streamlining DA processes and supporting policies promoting private sector investment in this area.

Commendations related to housing went to Hornsby Shire Council for its Housing Strategy and to Housing NSW for its Green Street Program, with a budget of $30 million that will provide for 15,000 trees rolled out in public housing estates and prioritising community gardens off the main streets. Young Planner of the Year Gillian Goldsmith was recognised for her contribution working with Housing NSW to develop and implement a planning approval process to satisfy the requirements of the new Affordable Rental Housing SEPP legislation and meet the time constraints of the Department’s Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan. Penrith City Council, winner in the Planning for Healthy Urban Environments category, listed the health challenges for its community as relating to, among other things, housing, transport, social interaction and food and nutrition. A Media award went to Warringah Council for its Talk of the Town 2010 Community Summit: Warringah’s Housing Future. Warringah, in Sydney’s north shore, expects to build an additional 10,000 dwellings by the year 2031.

For Rural and Regional Planning Achievement, GHD was a recipient of a Commendation for its Western Councils’ Sub Regional Landuse Strategy in collaboration with the Department of Planning and 5 local councils. The Strategy for the sub-region, characterised by broad acre farming that produces millions of dollars of export income, focuses on 5 key areas including social infrastructure such as housing. Mining is also increasing in prominence in the economy as world metal process drive mineral exploration and extraction.

For Urban Planning Achievement, Mosman Council took first place for its Local Environment Plan 2010, with its recognition of the importance of community consultation leading to the creation of a YouTube video and an
estimated more than half the community being aware of its exhibition. In response to numerous submissions, the council changed zoning to recognise the importance of high value bushland. Tweed Shire Council was among recipients of a Commendation for its Pottsville Locality Based Development Code, which achieves a balance between providing for growth and maintaining the low-key village atmosphere.

PIA NSW President Tony McNamara said: “With housing and town planning emerging key issues as Sydney and the rest of Australia plans for increased population to support economic growth, we are please to see a number of related projects recognised in this year’s Planning Excellence Awards. We commend all nominees for the high quality of their entries.”

Further information
Robyn Vincin, PIA NSW State Manager: Ph (02) 8904 1011, 0412 163 305
Tony McNamara, PIA NSW President: Ph 0418 490 926

2010 Award winners full list:

Environmental Planning or Conservation
Award: PRECINX Landcom Sustainability Tool — Landcom with Kinesis and Simpson + Wilson;
Commendation: Coastal Zone Management Plan for Byron Shire — Byron Shire Council & Parsons Brinckerhoff;
Commendation: Green Street Program — Housing NSW, Department of Human Services.

Heritage Planning
Award: Sydney Harbour YHA & the Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre — Sydney Harbour YHA.

Media – public/professional
Award: Warringah Council – Talk of the Town 2010 Community Summit: Warringah’s Housing Future.

Planning Scholarship, Research or Teaching
Award: Sarkissian Associates Planners P/L — A Trio of New Books on Community Engagement;

Planning for Healthy Urban Environments
Commendation: Penrith City Council — Penrith Regional Health Strategy 2010.

Rural and Regional Planning Achievement
Commendation: Bond University – Cross-Border Regional Planning: Coastal Queensland and New South Wales;
Commendation: GHD — Western Councils’ Sub Regional Landuse Strategy.

Social and Community Based Planning
Award: Clarence Valley Council — Clarence Valley Affordable Housing Strategy;
Commendation: Randwick City Council — An Integrated Planning Framework – A Suite of Community Based Plans;

Urban Design — Plans and Ideas
Award: Council of the City of Newcastle — Merewether Beach Public Domain Plan.
Urban Planning Achievement

Award: Mosman LEP 2010 (The bespoke consultation of a Standard LEP);
Commendation: Hornsby Shire Council —Hornsby Shire Council Housing Strategy;
Commendation: Tweed Shire Council — Pottsville Locality Based Development Code.

Young Planner of the Year

Gillian Goldsmith.

President’s Award

PRECINX Landcom Sustainability Tool —Landcom with Kinesis and Simpson + Wilson

and

Clarence Valley Council — Clarence Valley Affordable Housing Strategy.