



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **NSW Sustainability Awards finalists work for a brighter future for all**

From large corporations like Nestle creating circularity for soft plastic packaging, to a dedicated team of hospital workers tackling their own war on waste, the new NSW Sustainability Awards, presented by Banksia Foundation, recognise a range of initiatives working towards a more sustainable future.

The Banksia Foundation has today announced finalists for the seven award categories, which celebrate businesses, communities, individuals and governments making a positive impact on the world.

Banksia Foundation CEO Graz van Egmond says the organisation, which runs Australia's longest running national sustainability awards, will be excited to launch its first state awards program in Australia's most populous state.

"Working with DPIE on the NSW Sustainability Awards ensures that we can dig deeper into the amazing leadership and innovation across NSW and take this leadership to the national level," Ms van Egmond says.

"We have such a diverse array of initiatives amongst the finalists, from government right through to small and large businesses, and our young people wanting to make a change.

"The finalists share a drive to improve life on the planet, but they're doing so in such different ways. Our experienced judges will evaluate the entrants' results and impact, and assess their ability to scale.

"Our judges also are on the lookout for the real standouts; the ones that provide inspiration and the spirit of just getting on and getting it done."

Among finalists are Australian cultural icon, the Sydney Opera House, which has committed to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Sydney Trains, that have set the ambitious target of achieving 100% net zero emissions by 2025.

"But it's not only large organisations making a difference: 15-year-old Shalise Leesfield has been recognised for her passionate advocacy for the health of our oceans, and Seaside Savange, a grassroots organisation, has been shortlisted thanks to their ongoing efforts to inspire local communities to clean up their streets," Ms van Egmond says.

There are seven categories in the NSW awards:

- NSW Net Zero Action Award
- NSW Biodiversity Award
- NSW Circular Transition Award
- NSW Clean Technology Award
- NSW Large Business Transformation Award
- NSW Small to Medium Business Award
- NSW Youth as our Changemakers Award

A full list of the finalists is included below.



The winners of the NSW Sustainability Awards will be announced on 9 December in Sydney. Banksia and the NSW Government are proud to be partnering with EY Sydney for this celebratory event. Register to attend [here](#).

Winners of the NSW awards will automatically be entered into the prestigious Banksia National Sustainability Awards. The winners of the national Banksia awards will be announced in March 2022.

## ENDS

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NSW Clean Technology Award		
<a href="#">Global Sustainable Energy Solutions</a>	GSES launched a complete solar asset management platform with engineering and financial analysis.	Alexandria
<a href="#">Lake Macquarie City Council</a>	Lake Macquarie City Council has created the first Circular Economy Lead role at an Australia council, with a dedicated budget for circular initiatives.	Lake Macquarie/ Newcastle region
<a href="#">Degnan Constructions</a>	When Degnan Constructions approached the Como Train Station upgrade they seamlessly integrated sustainable design into the project via a solar panel glass canopy that would provide shade and generate electricity.	Mortdale
NSW Biodiversity Award		
<a href="#">Mulloon Institute</a>	The Mulloon Institute is restoring the Mulloon catchment in southern NSW to create a healthy ecosystem that has greater biodiversity, is more resilient to climatic extremes, and is capable of ensuring food and water security.	Mount Fairy
<a href="#">Sydney Institute of Marine Science</a>	Through innovative design that combines ecological and engineering know-how, a team at the Sydney Institute of Marine Science is bringing marine life back to built structures globally.	Sydney
<a href="#">Saving Our Species</a>	Saving Our Species is a global leader in conservation, bringing volunteers, scientists, and businesses together to redefine what is possible for threatened species, using a data ecosystem that supports conservation projects from inception to execution.	Throughout NSW
NSW Circular Transition Award		



<a href="#">Auburn Hospital Recycling Team</a>	This amazing team of environmental warriors are constantly on the lookout for new avenues to distribute their recycled goods and they have not allowed even a global pandemic to slow or stop their recycling efforts.	Auburn
<a href="#">Nestle Australia Ltd</a>	Nestle worked with iQ Renew and a coalition of companies to convert soft plastic into oil, which was then used to make Australia's first ever soft plastic food wrapper made with recycled content – wrapped around a KitKat!	Rhodes
<a href="#">Planet Protector Packaging</a>	Goodbye polystyrene, Planet Protector Packaging is in the race to become the market leader in sustainable thermal packaging that doesn't harm the planet. They manufacture WOOLPACK from waste wool that is unsuitable for the textile industry.	Silverwater
<b>NSW Net Zero Action Award</b>		
<a href="#">Sydney Trains</a>	Sydney Trains and NSW TrainLink are the first heavy rail networks in Australia to achieve 100 per cent net zero emissions.	Sydney
<a href="#">Hunter New England Local Health District</a>	The 'Sustainable Healthcare - Together Towards Zero' initiative outlines Hunter New England Local Health District's commitment to achieve carbon and waste neutrality by 2030, a first for any Local Health District in NSW.	Hunter New England region
<a href="#">Port of Newcastle</a>	As a direct contribution towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Port of Newcastle has set both a medium-term target to reduce its emissions by 30% by 2030 and a long-term Net Zero 2040 target; to date the Port has transitioned 90.5% of its electricity usage to be sourced from renewable electricity.	Newcastle
<a href="#">Pablo &amp; Rusty's Coffee Roasters</a>	Pablo & Rusty's coffee roasters are a Carbon Neutral Organisation and dedicate 1% of their revenue for the planet.	Sydney
<b>NSW Small and Medium Enterprise Transformation Award</b>		
<a href="#">Green Eco Technologies</a>	Green Eco Technologies have developed the WasteMaster food waste conversion system which provides businesses with a simple way to significantly reduce their carbon footprint while banking substantial savings on waste disposal costs.	Sydney
<a href="#">Sydney Markets Ltd</a>	The Sydney Markets sustainability goals include addressing food waste; over 14,000 tonnes, or 700	Sydney



	semi-trailer loads, of organic waste has been diverted from the markets in the 12 months.	
<a href="#">ErinEarth Limited</a>	ErinEarth is an urban garden and not-for-profit company that teaches sustainable living skills to the community of the Riverina.	Wagga Wagga
<a href="#">Port of Newcastle</a>	As custodians of the region's critical asset, Port of Newcastle is diversifying its trade as it strives to create a safe, sustainable and environmentally and socially responsible future	Newcastle
<b>NSW Large Business Transformation Award</b>		
<a href="#">Sydney Opera House</a>	In 2019, the Sydney Opera House became the first Australian cultural institution to make a commitment to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.	Sydney
<a href="#">Rheem Australia Pty Ltd</a>	The Rheem global business announced the 2025 sustainability goals, called "A Greater Degree of Good", with three main pillars that align with United Nations SDG.	Sydney
<b>NSW Youth as Our Changemakers Award</b>		
<a href="#">Shalise's Ocean Support</a>	Shalise is a passionate conservationist and started her ocean campaign four years ago. She takes a stand against ocean pollution, focusing on using her voice to raise awareness about environmental issues.	Sydney
<a href="#">Seaside Scavenge Inc</a>	Seaside Scavenge is a grassroots environmental organisation whose mission is to activate local communities to reimagine waste as a resource through fun and unique programs that ultimately clean up the ocean.	Sydney