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MEDIA RELEASE

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No opportunity wasted for NSW Sustainability Awards winners

From living seawalls made from upcycled materials, to a local health district tackling sustainability in hospitals, the winners of the NSW Sustainability Awards, presented by the Banksia Foundation, are working towards a more sustainable future.

Announced this evening (Thursday, 9 December) at a celebration in Sydney, the awards make up the first state program of Australia's longest running national sustainability award, the Banksia Awards.

Innovative waste solutions, clean technology and healthy sea life were priorities for the businesses, communities and individuals who won the seven award categories.

Among the winners are the Sydney Institute of Marine Science, which won the Biodiversity Award for their innovative design that combines ecology and engineering to promote marine life; Planet Protector Packaging, which won the Circular Transition Award for their sustainable packaging made from waste wool; and Green Eco Technologies, the winner of the Small & Medium Enterprise Transformation Award, for their work implementing a food waste conversion system at the Four Seasons Sydney.

Banksia Foundation CEO Graz van Egmond says the winners of the inaugural NSW Sustainability Awards herald a bright future for meaningful climate action.

"The judges were thrilled to see such innovative and inspiring initiatives," Ms van Egmond says.

"The winners share a drive to create a healthy future for people and the planet, but they're doing so in such different ways.

"They are all leaders in their field and are disrupting the status quo with their thinking."

There are eight 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
- Minister's Young Climate Champion

A full list of the winners and their projects is included below.

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.

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NSW Clean Technology Award		
Degnan Constructions	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		
Sydney Institute of Marine Science	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
NSW Circular Transition Award		
Planet Protector Packaging	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
NSW Net Zero Action Award		
Hunter New England Local Health District	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
NSW Small and Medium Enterprise Transformation Award		
Green Eco Technologies	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
NSW Large Business Transformation Award		
Sydney Opera House	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
NSW Youth as Our Changemakers Award		
Seaside Scavenge Inc	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
Minister's Young Climate Champion		
Kya's Bushfire Recovery Community Seed Bank	At only 11 years-old, Kya has created a plan to help her local neighbourhood recover from the 2019-2020 bushfires. She applied for and received a Roots and Shoots mini grant to grow native shrubs and flowers, as well as vegetables, to begin to replace what was lost to the fires.	Sussex Inlet