

MEDIA RELEASE

Ten local schools win EnviroSmart grants

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Ten local schools have won \$500 EnviroSmart grants from the NSW Minerals Council and Barrick Cowal to help them implement their own School Environmental Management Plans.

Representatives from Barrick Cowal and the NSW Minerals Council presented cheques for \$500 to each of the winning schools today.

The winning schools and their environmental projects are:

- St Mary's War Memorial School (tree planting)
- West Wyalong Public School (water harvesting and sustainable use projects)
- Wyalong Public School (construction of a sensory garden)
- Burcher Public School (an organic recycling/composting project)
- Red Bend Catholic College (a riverbank stabilisation project)
- Forbes High (native tree planting)
- Forbes North (tree planting and mulching projects)
- Tallimba Public School (native vegetation planting)
- Ungarie Central School (revegetation project)
- Caragabal Public School (greenhouse and tree propagation project)

The EnviroSmart Grants are designed to encourage, promote and recognise environmental excellence in schools that develop and implement a School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) based on the same model used by mine sites around the State.

This year's grant program will help a record number of 56 schools across NSW make a difference to their local environments.

NSWMC Chief Executive, Dr Nikki Williams, said the ongoing success of the program was proven by the school students, teachers and their local communities being inspired to undertake annual projects that made positive differences to their environments.

"EnviroSmart has become such a popular project that successful schools and students are developing intelligent environmental programs on an ongoing basis," Dr Williams said.

"There was a common theme in this round of grant applications - a strong water conservation focus - which is interesting because the NSW mining industry is a leader in water efficiency and water reuse strategies. But there were also many other innovative, environmentally-friendly projects," she noted.

The EnviroSmart Grants program follows on from the successful SEMP Awards that have been handed out to schools by the NSW Minerals Council since 2001. The grants recognise and support environmental planning initiatives based on the EnviroSmart school environment planning kit developed by the Minerals Council of Australia.

By using the EnviroSmart kit, schools can develop a SEMP based on similar methods to those utilised by mining companies across Australia to develop their own environmental management plans. All successful schools will receive a minimum of \$500 towards the cost of implementing their plan. Schools from mining regions across NSW are eligible for the program.

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