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## Media statement

### Queensland Government recognises nursery sustainability champions

Award-winning sustainable business Nursery Traders has been selected as a partner in the Queensland Government's ecoBiz program this month.

Nursery Traders recently completed the ecoBiz Step 6 Reassessment—a strenuous business sustainability accreditation program administered by the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

The achievement positions Nursery Traders as the Queensland Government's 81<sup>st</sup> eco-efficiency partner—recognising the business's investment in sustainable practice; in particular its industry best-practice water recycling and solar power initiatives.

Managing Director Tim Bunker said Nursery Traders began pursuing its vision for water and utility security two decades ago.

“We have always been driven by a commitment to innovation and continuous improvement in everything we do—so, in the 90s, we set a goal to become entirely water and energy self-sufficient,” said Tim.

Today, Nursery Traders' fifth water recycling project has taken the business to an estimated 97.2 per cent potable water savings. In 2010 alone, the business saved more than 58 megalitres—using no potable water to irrigate its 12,000 m<sup>2</sup>+ nursery in March, May, August, September, October and December.

Meanwhile—rated at 76 megawatt-hours per annum—the business's solar power generation system has made Nursery Traders largely energy self-sufficient. It sells its excess green power to the Energex grid.

“We believe our solar power installation remains the largest privately owned solar power system in Queensland,” said Tim.

In October 2010, Nursery Traders' sustainability achievements earned the business the Lord Mayor's Business Award for Sustainability.

Speaking to a group of industry peers at the NGIQ Energy Workshop earlier this month, Tim said that, by 2000, he had become convinced that his business's long-term future was at risk if he did not take steps to reduce his 30+ megalitre water bills.

"Today, every time I receive a \$13.58 water bill—for access charges only—I'm reminded of why," said Tim.

'We have invested more than 30 per cent of all capital expenditure in sustainability projects over the past decade, and we are now reaping the rewards.'

"Our success demonstrates to business that water and energy savings can be achieved with a low risk to business and strong returns into the long term. "

Becoming water and energy self-reliant, however, represented only two of Nursery Traders' sustainability goals. Since January 2011, Nursery Traders has cut its business waste by half.

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