

## Prime Minister's water awards drink to Australia's nursery sustainability champion



**Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability and Urban Water Senator Don Farrell delivering the Prime Minister's Water Wise Award to Nursery Traders Managing Director Tim Bunker and General Manager Bob Anderson.**

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Prime Minister Julia Gillard awarded Queensland's sustainable business champion Nursery Traders the nation's most prized water conservation award on Friday night at the national savewater awards in Melbourne.

Hosted by the savewater!® Alliance at the Sofitel Melbourne, Nursery Traders was honoured with the Prime Minister's Water Wise award for its large-scale water efficiency systems.

Speaking at the gala event, Nursery Traders' Managing Director Tim Bunker said he and his team were deeply honoured to be recognised for the six innovative water and energy projects that they began as lone sustainability practitioners twenty years ago.

'This award is very humbling for us. This honour, and the things we have achieved today, seemed completely impossible when we first started,' said Tim.

'Now, we are on track to reach our 22 March World Water Day target of 500 million saved litres of potable water—and we have generated more than 112,000 kilowatt hours of green energy since commissioning the private sector's largest solar power installation in early 2010.

'Moreover, with this award, the Prime Minister has given us a further chance to prove that it is possible to profit sustainably,' Tim added.

Nursery Traders won the award over a pool of water sustainability visionaries for its achievement in reaching an estimated 98.5 per cent potable water savings.

'In 2011 we used no potable water to irrigate our 12,000 m<sup>2</sup> nursery in August, September, October, December, March, April, May and June—consuming only 888,000 litres of potable water in the year and saving 59,000,000 litres—that's enough water for more than the annual use of 1000 households.

The business has also cut business waste by half, and become totally energy self-sufficient—providing excess green energy to Queensland's power grid and achieving a CO<sub>2</sub> reduction of 114,000 kilograms.

'Our 228 solar panels have a rated annual capacity sufficient to power 5,422,805 compact fluorescent light bulbs for an hour, said Tim.

Nursery Traders—a Chandler-based wholesale landscape supply company that markets landscape products for more than 250 growers and suppliers—has invested more than 30 per cent of its capital expenditure in sustainability projects over the past decade.

Tim said that, two decades ago, he began to see water security as a long-term threat to business.

'We believed our use of this precious resource was unsustainable and we believed our bottom line was at risk if we didn't act,' said Tim.

'We made a clear decision to weave an environmental and social contribution deeply into every aspect of the business—an extension of our commitment to innovation and best practice in everything we do.'

Receiving the award on Friday, Tim told the assembled guests that these achievements were only the beginning.

'In the next two years we intend to further step up our commitment to environmental and social responsibility—so watch this space.'

'Nursery Traders means to remove its footprint but make a mark,' he added.

For more information visit:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/water/policy-programs/weo/pm-awards/index.html>

[Nursery Traders—two decades of sustainability achievement](#)

The winners announced page can be found at:

<http://www.savewater.com.au/programs-and-events/savewater-awards/2011-winners>

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