



Media statement

Premier awards nursery sustainability champions

The Premier awarded nursery innovators **Nursery Traders** Queensland's most prestigious award for industry eco-efficiency at the Premier's ClimateSmart Sustainability Awards on Friday 10 June.

The Industrial Eco-efficiency award recognises Nursery Traders' benchmark role in sustainable practice leadership in Queensland industry.

The Premier and Minister for Reconstruction Anna Bligh—hosting Friday's gala awards dinner at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre—praised Nursery Traders for its water harvesting achievements and for operating Queensland's largest privately owned solar power generation system.

"This is a great example of how businesses can lead the way in making our community more sustainable," said Premier Bligh.

Nursery Traders won the award over corporate heavyweight finalists Downer EDI Mining and Rio Tinto Alcan for implementing six sustainability projects that to date have saved more than 454 million litres of potable water and generated more than 82,000 kWh of green energy—a CO² reduction of over 86,000 kg.

Nursery Traders Managing Director Tim Bunker said that he and his team were excited to have their accomplishments endorsed in a nominee field that included multi-national companies such as Xstrata Coal, Rio Tinto, Downer and Incitec Pivot.

"We have built this business on our passion for looking ahead, deciding where we need to be in five to ten years and getting there without delay—our sustainability achievements are a result of that passion," said Tim.

Speaking at the awards on Friday, Tim said Nursery Traders is still making new sustainability gains fuelled by its abiding commitment to innovation and continuous improvement.

"In the 2011 financial year we are on target to raise our water savings from 97% to almost 99%," said Tim.

"We expect to use 500,000 litres of water per hectare against a best-practice industry benchmark of 3 to 5 megalitres.

“In the last 124 days—on a site that irrigates 12,000 m² of plants twice a day—we have not used any town water for irrigation, and expect to use less than 1 megalitre this financial year—that’s less water than five households.

“In addition, our 228 solar panels have generated more than 30,000 kilowatt hours of green energy this year alone—turning a utility expense into a revenue stream,” added 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 percent of its capital expenditure in sustainability projects over the past decade.

Minister for Environment and Resource Management Kate Jones congratulated Nursery Traders on the award and said she hoped the business’s achievement was a shining example to other small businesses of the rewarding results of becoming sustainable.

Tim said he believes Nursery Traders’ sustainability achievements are a roadmap demonstrating what is possible when businesses of any size embrace change and invest with confidence in the future.

“By taking the long-term view 20 years ago, challenging ourselves with goals that seemed impossible—and being determined, resourceful and innovative—we have delivered on our commitment to the environment, community and industry.

“Nursery Traders’ sustainability projects have returned us prosperity—reducing utility costs, assuring supply of water and power, and building a strong backbone for business growth.”

Nursery Traders was also a finalist in the Premier’s ClimateSmart Small Business Award category on Friday—further cementing a reputation for sustainability leadership secured last October when the business won the Lord Mayor’s Business Award for Sustainability in Business.

Read the [joint statement about Nursery Traders’ win](#) from the Premier and Minister for Reconstruction and the Minister for Environment and Resource Management.

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