

MEDIA RELEASE

Phil Costa
Minister for Water
Minister for Regional Development



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MINISTER CONGRATULATES WINNERS OF REGIONAL AWARDS

Minister for Regional Development, Phil Costa congratulated the winners of the 2009 NSW/ACT Regional Achievement & Community Awards at a ceremony at Bathurst last night.

Mr Costa said the awards encouraged those involved in local economic development to stand up and be recognised for their efforts.

“It’s important to recognise the individuals, businesses and organisations that are instrumental in encouraging our regional communities to grow and prosper,” Mr Costa said.

“The value of local leadership can’t be underestimated and I’m impressed by the calibre of the award entrants.

“NSW Government support for regional communities helps them expand their economies and create jobs.

“Our programs help regional communities improve the local business climate, attract jobs and investment; and capitalise on new development opportunities.

“I want to congratulate all of the winners of the Regional Achievement & Community Awards.

“I particularly want to congratulate Brunswick Heads Chamber of Commerce for winning the Business Enterprise Award; and the organisers of the Mungindi Music Festival on winning the Events and Tourism Award.

“Both of these awards are sponsored by Industry & Investment NSW.

“Brunswick Heads Chamber of Commerce has done a marvellous job in developing the business community and raising funds; and the Mungindi Music Festival attracted more than twice the population of the town to the festival in only the third year of its operation.”

“Both winners will receive a Prime Television airtime package comprising twenty, 30-second commercials on the Prime Network.

“Every second year on the long weekend in October, the small community of Mungindi on the NSW and Queensland border hosts an event that more than doubles the town population.

“The town of Mungindi which has a population of around 600 welcomed more than 1,400 visitors to the event this year in only its third year of operation.

“The festival brings an important economic boost to this isolated town that largely depends on the agriculture industry.

“Brunswick Heads Chamber of Commerce makes a significant contribution to the ongoing prosperity of the Brunswick Heads area, helping to develop the beachside town into a thriving community.

“There are currently 84 members of the Chamber in Brunswick Heads. This is a proactive organisation that represents 116 businesses.

“The Chamber has spent the best part of the past decade developing strategies to develop the local business community and raising funds for the coordination of local events and community projects.

“In the past year the Chamber has been involved in a Work for the Dole program, promoting the Kites and Bikes Festival, and working on the Tweed St Makeover Taskforce and a buy local campaign.”

For more information on Industry & Investment NSW’s regional development programs, visit www.business.nsw.gov.au/region.