



Speech by
**Hon. NITA
CUNNINGHAM**

MEMBER FOR BUNDABERG

Hansard 15 May 2001

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Awards for Excellence in Planning

Hon. J. I. CUNNINGHAM (Bundaberg—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Planning) (10.06 a.m.), by leave: On Tuesday, 8 May I was honoured to launch the Queensland division of the 15th Royal Australian Planning Institute's Awards for Excellence in Planning. As patron of the awards in Queensland, I invite members of the planning and development industries, Commonwealth, state and local government agencies, residents action groups and students to submit entries for these prestigious awards. The awards acknowledge and encourage the vital work carried out by the planning profession. The fact that Queensland award winners are so often among the winners of the national awards for planning excellence clearly highlights the very high standard of planning in Queensland.

In the past entries have come in from all parts of the state and covered a broad range of issues such as residential and environmental issues in small communities to regional plans and academic research. Entries must be lodged with the Department of Local Government and Planning on behalf of the Planning Institute by 31 August and will be judged on a range of criteria, with category winners to be announced in early November. Category winners will then be entered into the 2002 National Awards for Planning Excellence.

In conjunction with the RAPI launch, I was also pleased to award three university students the Minister's Town Planning Prize. This year's winners were Belinda Jackson from the University of Queensland for *Planning Policies and Practices Applied by Local Governments to Address Urban Design in Regional Centres*; Craig Morgan from the Queensland University of Technology for *Guiding Principles of Brownfield Redevelopment*; and Daniel Murray from the Griffith University for *Developing Socially Sustainable Communities: The Role of Traditional Design Principles in Facilitating the Development of Social Capital and Sense of Community*. Each of the award recipients submitted outstanding work and demonstrated great insight into the practical problems facing local governments in applying town planning systems. These awards and the quality work submitted by students exemplify the importance of this government's Smart State strategy.
