




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Premier's Sustainability Awards

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (9.53 am): This government is committed to helping Queenslanders develop technologies that reduce environmental impact, foster new business and jobs, and bring economic benefit to the community. It is important that we embrace change in the way we go about our everyday lives, and I am very pleased to say recently I was reminded of just how many of us are moving towards a more sustainable future.

The 2015 Premier's Sustainability Awards continue to grow in stature, with nearly 120 nominations across 10 categories. Teys Australia, the country's second largest red meat processor, led the pack, taking out the top prize. The meat processing giant is working to dramatically reduce its carbon footprint with two new state-of-the-art wastewater treatment systems at its facilities in Beenleigh and Rockhampton. I was pleased to visit the Rockhampton site with the member for Keppel a little while ago. Teys Australia also won the Business Eco-efficiency Award.

This year's awards saw the introduction of a brand-new category, the Young Achiever's Award, to recognise the contribution towards a sustainable future by a Queensland under the age of 25. I am delighted that Bindi Irwin, who has done so much to inspire others, including my three kids, was the first recipient. Other winners included Nambour Rugby Union Football Club for turning an old landfill site into an organically certified sporting oval; Robert McVicker, whose luxury home exports more electricity and rainwater than it consumes in the member for Logan's seat; and Mount Pleasant Station, which has dramatically improved the landscape through sustainable grazing practices.

One of the many honours for me as the Minister for Environment was presenting the Queensland Minister's Award for Leadership in Sustainability to Alby Wooler, the founder of the Junior Landcare movement. Mr Wooler embodies the spirit of the Premier's Sustainability Awards, by encouraging young people to get involved in the Landcare movement. Alby established Junior Landcare in 1992 and continues to steer the program today as President of the Capricorn Coast Landcare Group.

Thanks to his efforts, generations of young people have been inspired to get involved and make a difference in locally sustainable, resource efficient conservation activities. Mr Wooler introduced the Passport Program to formalise Junior Landcare activities and to reward participants and encourage others to become involved. Under the program, Junior Landcarers earn passport stamps for participating in days like Clean Up Australia Day and National Tree Day. I will say it again—well done, Alby.

Each category winner received a fancy trophy designed and created by Queensland artist Mick Zalesky using recycled materials to symbolise new beginnings for sustainable growth. Winners also received \$2,500 to support ongoing sustainability projects. I would also like to acknowledge the

outstanding contributions made by all 30 finalists from across Queensland who were recognised for their tremendous efforts in striving for excellence in sustainability, innovation and eco-efficiency.

If we are to continue to enjoy our Queensland way of life, we must move towards a more sustainable future. The Premier's Sustainability Awards were a clear sign that Queenslanders are devoting their time to a better future.