

## 2006 WINNERS



Power and Water Corporation  
**environmental excellence awards**

2006 WINNER  
 Rural and Remote

### *Katherine goes nuts* SUSTAINABLE PEANUT FARMING – PEANUT COMPANY OF AUSTRALIA

When the Peanut Company of Australia bought the 500-hectare property on Katherine's Florina Road in 2002, they realised they would have to adopt different methods than those typically used in southern Queensland. Soil and climate conditions were dramatically different.



The company adapted its farming practices to:

- Minimise soil erosion
- Improve soil structure
- Maintain irrigation efficiency
- Use chemicals wisely and safely
- Decrease the weed population.

The overall objective was to grow peanuts in a sustainable manner and, while being profitable, undertake good farming practices to co-exist with the environment and resources.

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 Small Business

### *A smarter wash down bay* TRADE WASTE SYSTEM – DBH CONTRACTING



A mowing, tree trimming and landscaping company has reduced its impact on the environment by improving the way it washes its equipment.

DBH Contracting uses about 10 ride on mowers, assorted tractors and slashers, bobcats, and powered hand tools such as lawn mowers and chainsaws. Frequent cleaning is needed to avoid wear and tear.

After speaking with Power and Water's Trade Waste officers, DBH installed a wash down bay with a grated sump that collects dirt, grit and vegetative matter from the machinery. The sump is emptied into a waste skip. Oily wash water is directed into a holding tank and the oil is separated out. Only the remaining water ends up in the sewer.



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 Commercial / Industry

### *Power audit pays off* REDUCED ENERGY CONSUMPTION – CASUARINA SQUARE



The Territory's largest fully-airconditioned shopping centre, Casuarina Square, has power bills totalling hundreds of thousands of dollars every year – but the centre has slashed its bills and impact on the environment following an energy audit.

Before May 2005, the centre was using enough electricity every year to power 980 houses. After making some simple changes, it has cut back to the equivalent of 870 houses.

Casuarina Square has reduced its energy use by as much as 11% a year – and expects to cut this further when it upgrades its airconditioning plant.

The changes included readjusting cleaning schedules so lighting could be turned off at certain times.

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 Community and Local Government

### *Canny project reaps rewards* RECYCLING ALUMINIUM CANS AT MANINGRIDA – DJELK WOMEN'S RANGER GROUP

The remote Aboriginal community of Maningrida, on central Arnhem Land's northern coast, is now receiving payments for something that once literally went to waste: aluminium cans.



The Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation's Djelk Women's Ranger group started the program after first overcoming a number of obstacles. Littering had been a serious problem in the town, and recycling wasn't institutionalised as it is in many other Australian communities.

Through offering prizes and engaging residents in the scheme, Maningrida's can recycling program took off. Now, shipments of crushed, baled and shrink-wrapped aluminium cans are barged to Darwin regularly courtesy of Perkins Shipping and sold to CMA Metals.



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For more information about the annual Environmental Excellence Awards or this year's winners, phone 1800 245 092 or visit [www.powerwater.com.au](http://www.powerwater.com.au)