

MEDIA RELEASE



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BLAYNEY PUBLIC SCHOOL “TOP OF THE TREE” IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Two young students from Blayney Public School in country NSW ‘stole the show’ at the MCA’s Inaugural Global Sustainable Development Conference in Melbourne today with an outstanding presentation on environmental management in action.

Representing the 300 students from Blayney Public School, Grade 6 students Jenna Neal and Ashleigh Fogarty were awarded the 2004 National *EnviroSmart* Award to the rousing applause of the 500 national and international delegates.

The MCA’s *EnviroSmart* educational resource offers students guidance in managing aspects of their school environment and committing to a sustainable school.

Under the themes land, water, air, energy and waste management, students are encouraged to develop, implement and report on a School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP), drawing parallels with leading environmental management practices in the minerals industry as a learning context.

Blayney Public School, through its Student Representative Council, commenced an environmental audit in 2002, engaging local external stakeholders including Newcrest’s Cadia Mine, the local Council, Country Energy, AGL, Central Tablelands Water, Nestle Purina and Australian Native Landscapes.

Presenting the Award, MCA Chief Executive Mr Mitchell Hooke, highlighted the school’s success in effectively involving their stakeholders in projects to address health and safety issues, energy conservation, and water and waste management.

“The students and teachers at Blayney Public are very worthy winners of *EnviroSmart* – they are great ambassadors for their school and their local community. Their commitment to, and enthusiasm for environmental management is inspirational,” Mr Hooke said.

In their impressive presentation to the Conference, Blayney Public School representatives Jenna and Ashleigh emphasised the importance of their generation in the sustainable development equation.

“We realise that it is people our age who will eventually make an impact on the preservation of precious resources in our world,” the students said.

The students demonstrated that achieving a global vision requires action on the ground – a theme that aligns with the Inaugural Global Sustainable Development Conference, which is translating the aspirations of sustainable development into outcome-focussed practices in the minerals industry.

As advocates of leading practice the students concluded their presentation with “Blayney Public School is “top of the tree” when it comes to environmental plans”.

This is the fourth year the MCA has offered its National *EnviroSmart* Award – an Award that is conducted under the MCA’s innovative National Education Program.