

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

Support for GSDC Medal

A review of the Great Southern's most prestigious natural resource management award has revealed continuing strong sector support for the initiative.

In 2011, the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) Medal for Excellence in Natural Resource Management reached a ten-year milestone.

The GSDC considered it timely to undertake a review of the award's aims and achievements.

Winners of the award receive a \$10,000 grant to further their NRM work, and runners-up receive grants of \$1000.

Past recipients, past nominees and a wide range of representatives from the natural resource management sector were surveyed in April on the merits of the award.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said responses to the Commission's survey provided valuable feedback.

"We received a range of views about the nomination and decision-making process," Mr Manning said.

"It is clear that there is more scope to promote the engagement of agribusiness, industry, local government and community groups with the award process.

"Overall the survey showed that people working in NRM regard the medal as promoting a strong sustainability ethos in the Great Southern and providing real value as a regional recognition rather than a state or national award.

"The GSDC Medal for Excellence is a strong indicator of the Commission's commitment to best practice natural resource management in the Great Southern.

"We have an extremely strong group of winners from the past 10 years.

"We are pleased with the projects that have been funded by the medal grants to date and we look forward to continuing the recognition of leaders across the fields of NRM," Mr Manning said.



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The GSDC Medal for Excellence in NRM was initiated following the founding of the Centre for Excellence in Natural Resource Management in 2001.

Winners over the past decade have included farmers, scientists, environmentalists and community leaders.

Applications for the next GSDC Medal for Excellence in NRM will open early in 2013.

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