

## Esperance wins Tidy Towns Environmental Sustainability Award

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[Local News](#)



Big win: Esperance shire councillor Shelley Payne accepted the award presented by WA Environment Minister Stephen Dawson at a ceremony in Kings Park. Photo: Supplied.

Esperance was named the winner of the Environmental Sustainability Award at this year's Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards on Friday, October 25.

The state awards hosted by Keep Australia Beautiful celebrate achievements in sustainability by rural and regional communities across Australia.

Esperance was a finalist in four categories including Overall State Award Title, Young Legends and General Appearance Award.

Esperance Shire President Ian Mickel said he was delighted to see the community and council recognised for their hard work.

"We had lots and lots of volunteers involved in that work and made Esperance a magnificent place and it's real reward to them," he said.

"I think the council and councillors are very, very proud of the work that's been done and to receive the award."

Esperance scooped the title for a strong community effort to restore popular fishing and surfing spot Fourth Beach after extensive erosion.

Volunteers planted more than 1,000 seedlings and installed fencing to create a single access route to formalise pathways and a lookout area.

Seven truckloads of brushing was also spread to minimise weed growth and help keep people off the affected area.

Shire of Esperance chief executive Matthew Scott said they were very excited to receive the award and proud of the community's effort to restore the Fourths Beach Dune System.

"The recognition of the fantastic work that is being achieved in our community is great to see," he said.

"Shire Environmental officers coordinated an army of volunteers, including Esperance Senior High School Bushrangers, Wongutha Christian Aboriginal Parent Directed School and the Work For The Dole Program, with Max Employment to undertake the planting of over a thousand seedlings to combat the erosion.

"Thank you to everyone who helped make it possible!"

Environment Minister Stephen Dawson commended the winners' commitment to the protection of their local environment.

"The various category winners have shown great initiative in developing projects that are making a real difference in their local communities," he said.

"These projects have started out at a grass-roots level and epitomise how small scale ideas have the potential to lead to positive change across the wider WA community."

The City of Bunbury was named the Overall State Award Title Winner with Bunbury, Albany, Northam, Carnarvon, Nullagine, Bridgetown and Martu Farm awarded or highly commended in the remaining categories.

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