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## SHIRE OF WAROONA

# MEDIA RELEASE

### 4 August 2008

#### SHIRE OF WAROONA AWARDED FOR WISE WATER ACTIONS

The Shire of Waroona was awarded on Thursday for its commitment to sustainable water management through its participation in the Water Campaign™, an international freshwater management program.

Councillor Christine Germain was among representatives from state and local government at the *Local Governments Delivering on Sustainability* recognition breakfast hosted by ICLEI Oceania during the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Local Government Convention & Trade Exhibition.

"Local governments continue to lead in environmental issues", said Cr Germain. "Waroona's actions are reducing the impact on our water resources through the Water Campaign™ with environmental, financial and social benefits."

Councillor Germain received the award on behalf of the Shire of Waroona for achieving Milestone 3 in the five-milestone program.

Council received the award for completing a local action plan under which a range of actions are proposed, including retrofitting inefficient reticulation systems to automated irrigation systems, adopting water sensitive urban design principles and providing ongoing support for catchment management through Landcare.

Speakers at the event included Kim Taylor, Director General, Department of Water; Cr Bill Mitchell, President, WALGA; Mayor Paddi Creevey, City of Mandurah; and Dr Shayne Silcox, Chief Executive Officer, City of Melville.

Twenty-one Australian councils were awarded by the Oceania Secretariat of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, an international not-for-profit organisation that supports local governments worldwide to achieve sustainable development through local action.

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There are currently 38 councils participating in ICLEI's Water Campaign™ in Western Australia, representing 71% per cent of the state's population. The Shire of Waroona joined the program in 2003 and as an ICLEI member is part of a worldwide network of over 900 local government organisations working towards sustainable development.

Wayne Wescott, ICLEI Oceania's Chief Executive Officer, said that water conservation is one of the most pressing concerns facing local governments today.

"Communities are aware of the urgent need to act on climate change and local government has a significant role to play in the sustainable management of our precious and limited water resources," said Mr Wescott.

The Water Campaign™ is delivered by ICLEI Oceania in collaboration with local and state governments, water authorities and the Australian Government.

*ICLEI Oceania is the regional secretariat for ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, which was founded in 1990 as the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives.*

*More information about the Water Campaign™ is available from: Milly Harris, ICLEI Oceania Communications Officer; Email: [milly.harris@iclei.org](mailto:milly.harris@iclei.org); Direct: +61 3 9660 2246 Fax: +61 3 9639 8677 or visit the website at [www.iclei.org/oceania/water](http://www.iclei.org/oceania/water)*

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