



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

PG /101

18 July 2008

AUSTRALIA'S YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR

Environment Minister Peter Garrett, last night presented Larissa Brown with the inaugural Young Environmentalist of the Year Award at the Banksia Environmental Awards in Melbourne.

“It is terrific to present Larissa Brown with the first Young Environmentalist of the Year Award and celebrate her fantastic achievements to date - they show her great potential as an environmental leader” Mr Garrett said.

Mr Garrett said Larissa set a wonderful example for her peers in establishing the Centre for Sustainability Leadership at the age of 24. The Centre's flagship program, Future Sustainability Leaders, brings young environmentalist together with leading thinkers and influencers to create the next generation of environmentally responsible leaders.

“As an environmental leader whose generation is next in line in taking up the fight against climate change, Larissa's leadership and dedication to our environment sets a great example and bodes well for the future of our country,” Mr Garrett said.

Minister Garrett also presented the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) with the Indigenous award for its Dugong and Marine Turtle Project.

The NAILSMA project, which receives Australian Government funding, combines the knowledge of local Indigenous people with modern research and training to map and monitor turtle and dugong populations, and develop management plans.

“These Indigenous people are the ‘front-line’ managers of the north Australian coast where dugong and turtle remain abundant,” Mr Garrett said.

“The Dugong and Marine Turtle Project brings together Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders and scientists from across northern Australia to better manage and protect marine turtles and dugongs.

“This project is a prime example of communities and governments working in partnership to protect these internationally significant animals, so that future generations can enjoy them as well,” he said.

The Banksia Awards are hosted by the Banksia Environmental Foundation and are regarded as the most prestigious awards program of their kind in Australia.