

Friday, November 24, 2005

Transurban and Westlink Motorway Ltd named Blacktown City's 2006 Corporate Citizens of the Year

Transurban and Westlink Motorway Limited were announced as Blacktown City's Joint 2006 Corporate Citizens of the Year, by the Mayor of Blacktown City, Councillor Leo Kelly OAM at Council's Ordinary meeting on Wednesday night, November 22, 2006.

Mayor Kelly presented a commemorative plaque to Ms Lisa Hunt, General Manager New South Wales and Queensland, Transurban, and Ms Rachel Johnson, General Manager Westlink Motorway Limited, and thanked them for the outstanding contribution their respective organisation had provided over the last several years.

"Westlink Motorway Limited is well known to Council as the operator of the Westlink M7 Motorway. They are an outstanding corporate citizen that has contributed significantly to the City over the past few years. I need only refer to the M7 Motorway, the enormous transportation benefits that it has brought to our City and the recent rapid growth in business and industrial developments along the M7 corridor, to highlight this organisation's contribution to the future economic development of Blacktown City, Mayor Kelly said

Westlink Motorway have also established key sponsorships that enabled Council to host the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (SSO) in our City for the first time in its 75-year history with this event this likely to become part of Blacktown City's annual events calendar,". Mayor Kelly said.

A number of other sponsorships benefiting the people and City of Blacktown have also been established including the Art Exhibition and the inaugural Westlink M7 Cities Marathon. The Marathon is largely conducted on the Shared Pathway that adjoins the M7 and Westlink's sponsorship has enabled the event to take place", Mayor Kelly added

"On behalf of the team at Westlink M7 Motorway I am very pleased to accept this award from Blacktown City Council, Ms Johnson said.

"We have always wanted the motorway to be more than a piece of infrastructure by focusing on the community and its needs. As a result of our joint efforts, the M7 is now an integral part of western Sydney, linking it in a way that has changed daily life. It connects people to their families, workers to their workplaces and it is attracting business to invest here.

"Additionally, we have been delighted to contribute culturally through sponsoring projects such as the annual art exhibition and Sydney Symphony concert. These initiatives have been a direct result of Council's role," Ms Johnson said

Transurban, while also a part owner of the Westlink M7, is being recognised by Council for its commitment to the environment and to sustainability.

"For the past two years Transurban has demonstrated a genuine commitment to work with Council in achieving its environmental aims through a significant sponsorship of Council's Tree Give Away program, which sees Council provide some 70,000 trees and shrubs residents every year free of charge, "Mayor Kelly said. Transurban also supported Council's successful 2006 Rates Payment Incentive Scheme.

"I am also pleased that Transurban has joined with Council in an ambitious "Carbon Credits Program" that Council has been working on for the past 12 months and which will come together during the early part of 2007," Mayor Kelly said.

Transurban was named one of the world's 250 most sustainable companies in the 2006 Dow Jones Sustainability Index, which rates companies throughout the world based on economic, social and environmental performance. "This truly is an outstanding achievement in a very competitive Global market place and complements Council's push towards a balanced long-term vision for our City," Mayor Kelly said.

"Transurban is honoured to be named Blacktown City's joint, 2006 Corporate Citizen of the Year. This award represents five years of working closely with Blacktown Council to understand local issues and ensure that the Westlink M7 Public Private Partnership is a real partnership with the local community. Working in partnership with local councils and communities where we operate is a strong driver for Transurban. Our staff are delighted with this acknowledgement of their hard work," Ms Hunt said.

"We have a long-term contract and a long term partnership with the community. Blacktown Council provides us with important feedback on both our roads - Westlink M7 and Hills M2. The result is more than 100,000 motorists using the M7 every day, trucks off local roads and strong industrial development along the road - which means strong economic growth in Blacktown and western Sydney. We are also listening to Council and the community to help us develop significant improvements to the M2," Ms Hunt concluded.

The Corporate Citizen Award was introduced by Council two years ago and designed to recognise both individuals and Businesses who have clearly demonstrated a social responsibility and community involvement in the Blacktown City area within the terms of their organisation's normal business custom and practice. The nominees need to work or conduct business within the City of Blacktown LGA.

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