

# Barbara Perry MP

Minister for Local Government  
Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning  
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)



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March 8, 2010

## **Great women in local government recognised at major awards**

As part of International Women's Day celebrations, high achieving women in local government have been recognised at a major awards ceremony at State Parliament today.

Winners include the mayor of Lismore City Council Jenny Dowell, recognised for her incredible efforts during the 2009 Lismore floods when she tirelessly helped ensure flood victims received emergency help.

Ms Dowell carried out this important work at the same time that she was recovering from treatment for breast cancer.

Minister for Local Government Barbara Perry and Minister for Women Jodi McKay announced the winners of the third annual Ministers' Awards for Women in Local Government.

Minister Perry said she was impressed at the great achievements and efforts being made by women working in local councils.

"This year is the Year of Women in Local Government which makes these awards particularly special," Ms Perry said.

"These awards recognise that women around the state are having a huge impact in their community through their work on local councils – and that's to be encouraged."

Minister for Women, Jodi McKay, said councils needed to be representative of their community and she hoped these awards would encourage more women to stand for local government election.

"Despite the fact women currently comprise approximately 50 per cent of the population in NSW, only 21 per cent of mayors and 27 per cent of councillors are women," Ms McKay said.

"Further, only five per cent of general managers and approximately 20 per cent of senior staff in NSW councils are women.

"I hope that having a female Governor, Premier and Deputy Premier for the first time in NSW would encourage more women to entire politics at all levels."

## **Women in Local Government 2010 Award winners:**

### **\* Jenni Eakins, Coffs Harbour City Council.**

Ms Eakins, Executive Manager, Community and Cultural Development, won the award for regional/rural non-senior staff member for her sustained focus on community and cultural development through building positive community relationships.

### **\* Alison Hester, Kogarah City Council.**

Ms Hester, human resources manager, won the award for metropolitan council non-senior staff member for her contribution to developing women and young people on council staff.

### **\* Janice Summerhayes, Wagga Wagga City Council**

Ms Summerhayes, Director of Environmental and Community Services, won the award for regional/rural senior staff member for her dedication to raising the profile of Community Services within the council area.

### **\* Lindy Deitz, Campbelltown City Council**

Director of Community Services won the award for metropolitan senior staff member for her efforts in the areas of innovation and service delivery to meet the growing demand for services and facilities in the Campbelltown area.

### **\* Jenny Dowell, Mayor of Lismore City Council**

Clr Dowell won the award for regional/rural elected representative for her leadership and contribution to the community during the Lismore floods in May 2009.

### **\* Jean Hay, AM, Mayor of Manly Council**

Clr Hay won the award for metropolitan elected representative for her long term contribution to local government and the community through community action and fundraising.

## **The Women in Local Government Awards:**

\* Established in 2008 to recognise the achievements of women in local government.

\* Winners for six award categories were judged by a panel comprised of representatives from the NSW Office for Women's Policy, the Australian Local Government Women's Association (NSW), the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW, Local Government Managers Australia and the Division of Local Government.