



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Council wins two prestigious awards**

Barkly Regional Council (BRC) has taken home two prestigious awards at a recent local government ceremony in Canberra.

BRC's Barkly Desert Culture project won the Arts Animates category and in a collaborative landfill venture with two other Territory councils, BRC was joint winner in the Boosting Productivity Through Infrastructure category at the 2015 National Awards for Local Government last week.

The awards are an annual celebration of local governments' achievements in delivering targeted, quality services to Australians in urban and regional communities.

BRC President Barb Shaw said the council is immensely proud of staff and their collective approach to local and regional issues. "I congratulate staff on their achievements and all the hard work that has gone into the delivery, sustainability and collaborative approach for Barkly Desert Cultures and the landfill project," she said.

"Council staff has shown excellence in community engagement and participation as well as making service delivery a priority."

Barkly Desert Culture, managed by BRC's Sport and Recreation Coordinator Sean Spencer and his supervisor, Regional Community Services Manager Sharen Lake, is an ongoing multi-media Indigenous youth engagement program.

"The project was designed to bridge the gap between elders and the younger generation with discussions that were expressed through song, hip hop music, storytelling, film and animation," said Sean.

"It built on the sustainability of multimedia skills, like learning to film, lay down a track, record and edit, encourages commercial success with CDs, DVDs and live performances and offers employment for local artists."

Two participants in the project - Justine Rankine, from Elliott, and Preston Payne, from Ampilatwatja – also attended the awards ceremony on 16 June thanks to funding by the Central Australian Youth Link-up Service (CALYUS).

"They were immensely proud that they'd been recognised nationally for a project that supports the ongoing and sustainable cultural development of the region, including developing local skills and offering employment for artists," said Sean.

"Such an accolade does wonders for the continuation of the project and for their self esteem and confidence."

Creating great landfills in central Australia remote Aboriginal communities, a collaborative project between Central Desert Regional Council, MacDonnell Regional Council and BRC, won the Boosting Productivity Through Infrastructure Award.

BRC CEO, Dr Edwina Marks, said all three councils won the award for demonstrating the on-the-ground benefits of local government working together to make effective service delivery a priority.

"The project's collaborative approach to solving problems in small communities has proved highly successful and is leading to other partnerships," she said.

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