



MEDIA RELEASE

Kate Hadden Presented the McKell Medal

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA) is today applauding the presentation of the McKell Medal to Tiwi Land Council (TLC) land and resource management secretary Kate Hadden.

Ms Hadden's win was announced by the Australian Ministers for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Peter McGauran, and Environment and Water Resources, Malcolm Turnbull, at a meeting of the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council in Brisbane today.

The McKell Medal is a prestigious national award that publicly recognises excellence and achievement in natural resource management in Australia.

NRETA Natural Resource Management Executive Director Brent Williams said Ms Hadden, who is on secondment from NRETA to TLC, had dedicated almost 30 years to natural resource management in the Northern Territory, achieving several major successes during that time.

"Kate is a deserved recipient of this prestigious Award and I am truly delighted to be in Brisbane today to see her presented the McKell Medal," Mr Williams said.

"She clearly met all the selection criteria required of a McKell Medal recipient, by providing strong community leadership on the Tiwi Islands in the area of natural resource management, as well as developing effective and innovative educational programmes.

"Since 2005, Kate has encouraged investors to fund 10 Tiwi Land Management Officer (LMO) positions who have weekly work programmes providing participation in endangered species, weed and feral animal control, water quality, erosion assessments and other threats and risks, as well as marine and coastal zone impacts through her managed Marine Ranger programme.

"Kate visits all Tiwi Islands schools with the LMOs on a regular basis and has encouraged school pantomimes on turtle research together with endangered species trapping demonstrations and participation by students."

Ms Hadden has spent the past seven years involved with the landowners of Bathurst and Melville Island and during that time compiled the Tiwi Strategy, which was the first Northern Territory's first Natural Resource Management Strategy.

She was presented the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) Rural Women's Award in 2002 and her work has also supported the Tiwi Land Council in winning the 2004 NT Natural Heritage Trust Coastcare Community Award.

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Media Note – For more information contact Brent Williams on 0401 115 740

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