

Monday 27 June 2011

Another award for Indigo's mantle

Indigo Shire has won an Award for National Excellence for mobile phone recycling at the MobileMuster 2011 Local Government Awards in Canberra.

Indigo Shire was named as this year's 'National Excellence Award' winner for being second in both collecting the most mobiles and accessories by weight, and per capita over the past 12 months.

Mayor Cr Ali Pockley accepted the award for Indigo Shire last week. "For a Shire with less than 16,000 residents, coming second is an outstanding achievement. There are MobileMuster collection units at each of Councils four offices in Beechworth, Yackandandah, Rutherglen and Chiltern. Anyone who has an old mobile phone or accessory such as a charger that they no longer need, then can pop into any of our offices and recycle them free of charge," Cr Pockley said.

"Over 90 per cent of a mobile phone and its accessories can be recycled to make new products such as jewellery, plastic fence posts and new batteries. In Australia, there is an estimated 19 million old mobile phones that are stored away in cupboards and drawers which could be recycled. If mobile phones are not recycled properly, they can end up in landfill where potentially harmful substances can end up in the environment," Cr Pockley said.

MobileMuster is a not-for-profit recycling program for the mobile phone industry, that aims is to prevent mobile phones ending up in landfill. Indigo Shire has being involved in the program since the Local Government Awards started in 2007.

"Although Council will begin to recycle E-waste products such as old TVs and computers at the Beechworth and Rutherglen Transfer Stations from this Friday 1 July, we continue to encourage people to drop their old phones at our offices, because as well as being a free service, MobileMuster supports local LandCare groups around Australia through the ongoing '*Old phones more trees program*'," Cr Pockley said.

The '*Old phones, more trees*' campaign provides \$2000 grants to up to 25 Landcare and Coastcare groups around Australia.

For more information visit www.mobilemuster.com.au , or call Indigo Shire Council Waste Management Coordinator Mark Greene on 02 6028 1100.

****ENDS****

Caption: Indigo Shire Council Mayor Cr Ali Pockley recycling an old mobile phone through the MobileMuster program at the Beechworth Council office.