

# **NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

DAFF07/049PM

20 April 2007

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Territorian wins prestigious McKell Medal**

A woman who has devoted the past decade to working with Tiwi landowners on Melville and Bathurst Islands has been awarded the coveted McKell Medal for excellence in managing natural resources.

She is Kate Hadden, secretary for Land and Resource Management with the Tiwi Land Council.

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.

"Over the past decade, Kate Hadden has helped the Indigenous landowners of Bathurst and Melville Islands build sustainable businesses, without compromising cultural and natural heritage values," Mr McGauran said.

"Kate has supported the landowners by providing planning and technical tools for increasingly sophisticated land management practices."

Mr Turnbull said: "By transferring knowledge and information at all levels in the community, Kate has inspired the participation of leading researchers in work relevant to the Tiwi landowners.

"She also founded the land management officer team of 10 Tiwi landowners who visit schools and other community organisations to encourage sustainable management of resources."

The McKell Medal is awarded by the Australian, state and territory governments for outstanding contributions to improved land and water management through on-farm action, scientific research or community involvement.

The Medal commemorates the work of Sir William McKell, a former NSW Premier (1941–47) and Governor-General (1947–53), who made a significant contribution to improving soil and land conservation in Australia.

The McKell Medal is awarded annually. Nominations for the 18<sup>th</sup> medal are now open. Nomination forms are available at [www.daff.gov.au/mckellmedal](http://www.daff.gov.au/mckellmedal)

*More information on Kate Hadden (BSc.) is attached.*

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## **Background**

### **KATE HADDEN BSc.—17th McKell Medal winner**

Kate Hadden has dedicated her life's work to natural resource management.

Kate is currently Secretary for Land and Resource Management with the Tiwi Land Council and has devoted the past decade to working with Tiwi landowners on Bathurst and Melville Islands. Her role on the council is to provide support and guidance for sustainable land use appropriate to Tiwi culture.

She won the Northern Territory Rural Woman of the Year Award in 2002, for developing the first Natural Resource Management Strategy for the Tiwi Islands. This was one of the first regional strategies in the Northern Territory.

Her vision for natural resource management in general and for the Tiwi people in particular, is to build sustainable economies around the development of natural resource management without compromising cultural and natural heritage values.

Kate has investigated ways for Indigenous communities to shift from traditional custodianship of land to contemporary resource management while improving economic and social conditions in the communities. She has also worked to ensure the transfer of skills and knowledge to present and future Tiwi leaders, and to the broader community.

An innovative and motivated manager and facilitator, Kate draws upon remarkable personal skills in daily consultations and weeks-at-a-time field work with landowners—listening, observing and nurturing ethical and sound natural resource management.

Through her studies with the Inuit communities of Nunavut, Canada, Kate has actively promoted research to secure Tiwi participation in land use management using the highest standards of sustainable management systems.

Kate has distributed CDs and videos on best-practice land management to schools and other organisations.

She has fostered several class-room awareness programs for endangered species, providing adoption and naming opportunities to school children.

Kate also founded the Land Management Officer Team: ten Tiwi landowners who visit schools and other community organisations to encourage sustainable resource management. The Land Management Team works extensively on natural resource management projects on the Islands, with collaborations between landowners, government and private industry.