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MEDIA RELEASE

MANNINGHAM CELEBRATES AWARDS HAUL

Planning Excellence for Doncaster Hill

The multi-million dollar Doncaster Hill Civic Precinct project has been recognised for setting a high standard for planning in Victoria.

It took out the coveted Victorian Award for Excellence, the Planning Minister's Award, at the 2010 Victorian Awards for Planning Excellence run by the Planning Institute of Australia.

A Doncaster Hill flagship project, the Civic Precinct reached a significant milestone last month with the 'turning of the sod' that initiated work on the \$38 million Community Hub.

The Community Hub will provide family services, welfare services, aged care, a community youth activity space, a library, an art gallery, a café and a community arts facility for the Manningham community.

Council also collected a Commendation in the Heritage category for the Doncaster Hill Heritage Trail at the Awards.

Comprising a series of two interpretive signs and four sound posts identifying six key areas of historical significance the Trail gives residents and visitors an opportunity to experience life from the early days when the first pioneers settled in Doncaster.

Chief Executive, Lydia Wilson said: "These awards really do give a healthy recognition to the many years of work by staff and Councillors and the achievement of the Doncaster Hill Strategy. The tenacity of staff in taking the Doncaster Hill vision to its present day fulfilment is a standout achievement."

The inaugural Doncaster Hill Developer Expo 2010: Doncaster Hill on the Rise was also recognised at the Economic Development Australia (EDA) National Awards for Excellence in Economic Development.

It was Highly Commended in the Economic Development Marketing Strategy Award which was won by Ashfield City Council.

The Expo, the first of its kind in local government and attended by more than 350 developers, industry leaders, real estate agents, State and Federal Government representatives, and senior local government offices, showcased the work Council is doing on Doncaster Hill and in engaging with developers to attract further investment to Manningham.

Public Sector Finance Manager of the Year

In another achievement for Council, Chief Financial Officer, Rob Spargo, was named the Public Sector Finance Manager of the Year at the recent 2010 CFO Awards which recognised the achievements of the very best in Australian finance in the past 12 months.

Chief Executive, Lydia Wilson said the award was a fantastic achievement for Mr Spargo and the organisation. “The award recognised his outstanding technical and business skills and is a credit to his fantastic work here at Council.”

The Council’s Finance Unit was also recognised at the awards as a finalist in the category of Finance Team of the Year competing against Minda Incorporated and BHP Billiton Olympic Dam.

“The Finance Team of the Year Award is one of the highest awards given. To be named a finalist is an achievement in itself with the national recognition gained,” Ms Wilson said.

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