

MEDIA RELEASE

NAIDOC 2016 Caring for Country Award recognizes community engagement as the key

The Manymak Energy Efficiency Project received the 2016 NAIDOC Caring for Country Award at the Annual Award event held at the Darwin Convention Centre on Friday 8 July.

The Centre for Appropriate Technology Ltd was one of the consortium partners who delivered the project, along with Power and Water Corporation, East Arnhem Regional Council, the NT Department of Housing and Charles Darwin University. CAT's primary role was the design and delivery of the community engagement, education and employment approach underpinning the project.

CAT CEO Dr Steve Rogers said "the award is an acknowledgement of what can be achieved when effective community engagement practices and demonstrable benefit for Aboriginal people drive the design and delivery of projects".

'Yolngu people were at the heart of developing and deploying this project. This prestigious award is recognition at the national level of their commitment and achievement' said Marteena McKenzie, Project Manager.

More than 80 local community members were employed as part of the project and provided with the education tools and technologies to help Yolngu households make informed choices about using power and water in their homes. Approximately 500 residents across six communities in East Arnhem Land participated in the energy and water education program delivered by the Yolngu workers. Participating communities were Galiwin'ku, Gapuwiyak, Gunyangara, Milingimbi, Ramingining and Yirrkala.

A range of energy saving installations were also undertaken, including stove timers. 250 BEEBox's – an in-house energy display unit designed by CAT Projects and CAT Ltd specifically for remote communities - were rolled out as part of the project. These provide residents with the opportunity for real-time monitoring and management of their energy use and expenditure.

The project's success is in part a recognition of a consortium approach, where the differing expertise brought by each partner organisation could be leveraged to develop and evaluate a best practice model for energy efficiency engagement in remote communities.

Along with 19 other projects nationally, the Manymak Energy Efficiency Project was part of the Australian Government's Low Income Energy Efficiency Program, and received funding through the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science. Findings from the project will be used to inform future energy efficiency initiatives in remote communities across the Northern Territory.

The Manymak Energy Efficiency Project has also been shortlisted for the Clean Energy Council Industry Awards in the Business Community Engagement category to be announced at the Australian Clean Energy Summit on Wednesday 27 July.

To read the summary report, visit: www.powerwater.com.au/lieep

For more information

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