



## Media Release

Kangaroo Island Council's *Visible Solar Project* has been awarded with the Best Specific Environmental Initiative Award in the Local Government category of the United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day 2015 Awards announced on Friday 5 June in Melbourne.

Each year, in support of United Nations World Environment Day (June 5), the United Nations Association of Australia recognises innovative and outstanding environmental programs and initiatives from across Australia and the important work of Australian environmental leaders through its World Environment Day Awards.

The preeminent national awards play an important role in raising awareness about key environmental issues and challenges, and inspiring and motivating individuals, organisations and businesses to take positive steps towards sustainability and environmental excellence in their homes, schools, communities and workplaces.

CEO, Andy Boardman, received the Award on behalf of Council commented that it was a great honour to have our project recognised in this way, particularly given the outstanding competition in this category. "Once again Kangaroo Island demonstrates its innovative approach to big issues that affect everyone – the project is generating significant interest world-wide as we have demonstrated that renewable power generation and the use of electric vehicles in a regional setting is viable." He added "The project has delivered the predicted savings and more at the Kangaroo Island Airport and Dauncey Street Office and the use of the EV's is growing steadily, with Community members investing in their own vehicles as they recognise the benefits of EV ownership"

The \$500,000 solar project funded by State Government Renewables SA and auspiced through RDA Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu & Kangaroo Island was originally to deliver solar power generation at the airport alone and, with careful project management, Council were able to develop this further into a world's first – a regional electric vehicle charging network.

Chargepoints in each of the townships allow the fleet of three Nissan Leaf EV's to pick up a charge as required. Two of the vehicles are leased to local hire car provider, KI Transfers, and their uptake is steadily growing. Peter Wyatt, owner of KI Transfers said "It is very exciting to be involved in such a project and it is clear that we need to be open-minded about new technologies and the need for us to do what we can to reduce the impact we have on our environment", he added, "I see more opportunities for this in the future for our Island – we have a great brand and we should do what we can to reinforce this – the EV's do demonstrate our commitment to innovation, conserving resources and protecting our environment."

Three additional vehicles are now on the Island together with two Plug-in Hybrid EV Mitsubishi Outlanders. The project has generated interest on the mainland with the RDA Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu & Kangaroo Island now investigating the feasibility of leveraging off the work here to create "Electric Highways" linking Adelaide Metro to the Hills, Southern Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island together with the vehicles to permit EV tourism around the region.

Mayor Peter Clements said, "it is important to drive economic outcomes from projects like these – none of us can afford to do work that doesn't deliver real tangible value and the opportunity to have created something that saves money, benefits the environment, focuses the world's attention on our Island and gives us yet another point of difference is fantastic."

For further details please contact Andy Boardman, Chief Executive Officer on 0448 868088

Kangaroo Island CEO Andy Boardman pictured with the United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day 2015 Award, Friday 5 June

