

## Category One – Community Involvement

### Blacktown City Council and Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Liverpool Plains Shire Council (LPSC), population 7,600 has been a Sister City partner with Blacktown City Council since 2005. The Shire was identified in the top 3 drought affected areas in NSW.

Based on the strong partnerships developed between both Councils since 2005, Blacktown City Council and various local service clubs agreed to support two innovative and complementary community drought relief initiatives.

These initiatives sought to offer direct financial and material support while conducting morale raising activities for residents affected by the hardships of drought, comprising:

1. The donation by Blacktown City Council of \$20,000 to help fund the purchase of a tank to supply potable water to residents.
2. Facilitation with local service clubs and/or organisations of several community based initiatives resulting in:
  - The creation of collection centres across Blacktown City for non-perishable items in partnership with several Lions Clubs and other support organisations
  - Receipt of cash donations of \$8,000 from supporting Blacktown Lions Clubs which were given for use as redeemable vouchers at local business for families identified as “in need”, by the Quirindi Country Women’s Association
  - The collection, transport and distribution of over 2,000 gifts and toys to families in the Liverpool Plains Shire Council region gathered during the Blacktown City Mayoress Christmas Appeal with assistance from the Greater Blacktown Business Chamber, the Liverpool Plains Chamber of Commerce and Tourism and other support organisations.

The provision of the tank enabled water to be delivered to properties within the LPSC where 60% of these properties are not connected to local mains water and require tankers to supply water. The donations, goods and cash vouchers delivered identifiable and crucial assistance to residents in the drought affected area.

The initiatives were branded under the Sister Cities banner.