

Flinders Bioremediation wins national award

A project involving Flinders Bioremediation in a trial to compost waste material removed from the Patawalonga catchment has beaten finalists from other states to win a national award. The Case EARTH Awards are presented annually by the Civil Contractors Federation for excellence in environment and excellence in construction for civil construction projects around Australia. The awards have the specific aim of recognising and rewarding organisations that achieve best practice and innovation in the field of environmental management of Civil construction and related projects.

The Patawalonga project won its category in the state awards in July, when it was chosen as one of six finalists for the national awards, announced this month.

Patawalonga Catchment Water Management Board selected Flinders Bioremediation as part of a consortium that also included

Lucas Earthmovers and composting firm Jeffries Group, to trial alternative methods of disposing of silt trap material in a bid to avoid sending it to landfill.

Stormwater-borne silt contains low-level contaminants as well as organic debris.

The general manager of Flinders Bioremediation, Dr Richard Stewart, said he was pleased that the company had won such a high profile award against stiff interstate competition.

"The major outcome of the project is that it has shown that composting is a viable alternative to landfill for this material - it is both a cheaper and more environmentally sustainable option for the Catchment Board," he said.

The large-scale trial involved some 3000 cubic metres of trapped material; approximately 30,000 cubic metres in silt traps around Adelaide remains to be treated.



The national CASE Earth Award winners.

In front, Dr Richard Stewart (right) and Mr Nick Matthews (Lucas Earth-movers); behind, from left, Ms Rayo Giffard (Flinders Bioremediation), Mr Andrew Thomas (Patawalonga Catchment Board), and Mr Paul Bowden (Jeffries).