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MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW RECOGNISED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL WORK AT WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

The NSW Government has been recognised as an environmental world leader at an awards ceremony in Davos, Switzerland, during the World Economic Forum.

Environment Minister Rob Stokes said the Office of Environment and Heritage's Sustainability Advantage program was announced as the second place winner in the award for circular economy cities.

"Sustainability Advantage assists organisations from the not-for-profit, government and business sectors to achieve increased competitiveness and improved bottom lines through better environmental practices," Mr Stokes said.

"The program provides expertise, training and business tools to evaluate an organisation's current environmental performance, and help minimise risk and create future business opportunities.

"Sustainability Advantage's members collectively save over \$79 million a year from increased productivity and significant reductions in energy, water and waste; they have created 79 jobs and leveraged \$55 million in infrastructure investment by the private sector.

"This award recognises cities or regions for enabling this new economic model centred on increasing the availability of materials across industrial markets by recovering resources – materials, water and energy – contained in products at the end of their useful life.

"The NSW Government's environmental approach results in better management of resources, lower and less volatile costs, and holds huge potential for innovation and job creation.

"Through the acknowledgment of Sustainability Advantage's role as a circular economy incubator, we hope to encourage and support more NSW businesses to build capacity to improve their reputation and competitive edge.

"The NSW Government believes in economic growth, and this award highlights that we can achieve this with the added benefit of environmental protection and looking after the resources that are the bedrock and foundation of our growth."