

**The Hon. Tony Burke MP****M E D I A R E L E A S E**

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Minister for Population

Western Australian agricultural scientist wins McKell Medal

Western Australian agricultural scientist, Mr Bill Crabtree has been awarded the most prestigious Australian award for excellence and achievement in natural resource management.

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke today presented the McKell Medal to Mr Crabtree at the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Ministerial Council meeting held in Darwin.

“It gives me great pleasure to award the 24th McKell Medal to Bill Crabtree of Beckenham in Western Australia,” Mr Burke said.

“Mr Crabtree’s knowledge and enthusiasm for promoting sustainable farming practices and mitigating soil erosion is highly regarded.

“As a scientist, Mr Crabtree has published significant scientific data and has worked closely with leading farmers to extend his knowledge to the broader farming community over the past 25 years.

“Through his work, he has been able to encourage farmers to adopt no-till farming systems that improve soil structure and nutrient recycling, and reduce soil evaporation, wind and water erosion.”

The McKell Medal is awarded annually by the NRM Ministerial Council to recognise outstanding achievements in shaping community attitudes and practices in natural resource management.

The medal honours the contribution to soil and land conservation of Sir William McKell, a former Governor-General of Australia and Premier of New South Wales.

Mr Burke said all 10 nominees for this year’s award deserved congratulations.

“As there was a particularly strong field of nominations this year, two additional nominees, Ms Lyn Dohle and Ms Lorraine Edmunds, have been awarded certificates of merit,” Mr Burke said.

“Lyn Dohle’s outstanding ability to relate to farmers and the wider community has enabled her to achieve a great deal for the farmers, residents and natural resources of Kangaroo Island.

“Lorraine Edmunds’ work with the community and pastoralists of the Flinders Ranges region to control plant pests has significantly contributed to the protection of biodiversity assets in the region.

“I congratulate Mr Crabtree, Ms Dohle and Ms Edmunds for their significant contributions to natural resource management in Australia.”

Information on the McKell Medal is available at www.daff.gov.au/mckellmedal.