



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Sustainable Business Network wins Not for Profit award at AUT Excellence in Business Support Awards**

The Sustainable Business Network has won the New Zealand Business Excellence Foundation - Not for Profit Award at the 2014 AUT Excellence in Business Support Awards, announced at the Langham Hotel, Auckland on 2 October.

Sustainable Business Network (SBN) CEO Rachel Brown says she is thrilled to win the award, which is a welcome endorsement for her organisation's dedication to help business succeed through sustainability.

"SBN exists to help businesses play a key role in making New Zealand a model sustainable nation. We believe that all businesses, large and small, have a role to play and we work individually with members as well through coalitions to address some of the more challenging issues around water, food, transport, community and resource efficiency," she says.

Awards evaluator, AUT Senior Lecturer in Management, Dr Irene Ryan, says, "the Sustainable Business Network (SBN) has boldly reframed its vision in 2013/14, using the tagline 'reshaping profit'. The objective is to initiate transformational change by rethinking traditional business models to integrate sustainability at all levels. To do so, the SBN is working with the UK based non-profit Forum for the Future, adopting its #BIGshift market-led approach to boosting sustainability outcomes.

"A strong team culture exists at the SBN, with staff members literally 'walking the talk' alongside the CEO. Sustainability and carbon footprints are the 'hot' topics of the 21st Century, and the SBN is leading the way as business responds to those issues," she says.

AUT University Dean of Business and Law, Professor Geoff Perry says, "the standard of entries in the Awards this year was excellent. It is heartening to see the wider business sector taking a

strong interest in these Awards, which highlight the important role of business support in our economy.”

The AUT Excellence in Business Support Awards are now into their ninth year and are the only national performance measure for New Zealand organisations that provide business support. Applications are judged by evaluators from the AUT Business School and the New Zealand Business Excellence Foundation.

The Sustainable Business Network was one of 11 category winners, with the Supreme Award going to law firm Minter Ellison Rudd Watts. A full list of category winners can be found at [www.aut.ac.nz/business/ebsa](http://www.aut.ac.nz/business/ebsa)

The Sustainable Business Network provides advice and support to help business succeed through becoming more sustainable. With approximately 500 members it is the largest organisation of businesses dedicated to sustainability in New Zealand.

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