Light Regional Council

Media Release

4 November 2026

MEDIA RELEASE: Light Regional Council Receives Second State Recognition for Award-Winning BEES Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Light Regional Council's innovative Building Early Engagement and Support (BEES) Pilot Project has received further state-wide recognition, with the program named a finalist in the 2026 Minister for Health and Wellbeing Excellence in Public Health Awards.

The announcement marks another significant achievement for the BEES program, following its recent success in receiving the prestigious Jim Crawford Award, recognising excellence and innovation in local government initiatives.

Developed through a collaborative partnership approach, the BEES program works to identify developmental concerns early and connect families with the support services they need, helping to create healthier outcomes for children across the region.

Light Regional Council Chief Executive Officer Darryl Whicker said the recognition reflects the dedication of Council staff, partner organisations and the wider community that have supported the program's success.

"Being recognised as a finalist in the Minister for Health and Wellbeing Excellence in Public Health Awards is a tremendous honour and reinforces the positive difference the BEES program is making in our community. By providing children with a book every month throughout their first five years of life, through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, with books delivered directly to their home, alongside a monthly literacy resource provided through Raising Literacy that participants collect from their local Light Regional Council library, as well as opportunities for learning, play and social connection, the program is helping to develop a love of reading, strengthen school readiness, and equip children with the skills and confidence they need to thrive throughout their education and beyond."

Winners will be announced at the **Minister for Health and Wellbeing Excellence in Public Health Awards Ceremony** on 4 December 2026 at the Adelaide Convention Centre as part of the Local Government Association of South Australia Conference and Annual General Meeting.

Light Regional Council is proud to see the BEES program recognised at a state level and remains committed to working with partners to deliver initiatives that support healthier, stronger and more connected communities.

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