



MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Innovative South East Water program wins Victoria water award**

An innovative program developed by South East Water has been recognised at the Australian Water Association's annual Victoria Water Industry Awards, held on Monday in Melbourne. The water retailer was awarded Program Innovation Award for its Industrial Ecology Program.

The Industrial Ecology Program was recognised for the potential water, energy and waste savings that could be achieved. The first of its kind by a water retailer in Australia, the program aims to develop solutions to enable the unwanted waste of one company to become a valuable resource of another—ultimately reducing water use and environmental impacts associated with industrial systems.

Through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Sustainability Victoria, South East Water is partnering with industrial customers in the Port Melbourne area to identify industrial ecology opportunities.

The judges were also impressed with the level of engagement, cooperation and sharing created by the program. According to the judges, the program 'reflects the need to rethink how we approach water and resources.'

Receiving the award Julia Oxley, General Manager, Customer and Community at South East Water said, "We're very proud of the industrial ecology program, which reinforces our commitment to working in partnership to achieve the best possible outcomes for our customers and the environment," she said.

"This award is testament to the strong emphasis South East Water places on recycling and water reuse, and our hope is that projects like this will open up further opportunities for industrial ecology nationally."



The annual AWA Victoria Water Industry Awards celebrate and promote the outstanding work achieved by individuals and organisations in the water sector in Victoria. For more information go to [www.awa.asn.au/awards](http://www.awa.asn.au/awards).

The AWA Victoria Water Industry Awards took place during National Water Week (17-23 October). National Water Week raises public awareness and improves understanding of water issues in Australia.

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For further information, images or interview requests please contact Helen Ketton, AWA Communications Manager, on 02 9467 8416 / 0401 806 277

### **Notes to Editors**

- The Australian Water Association (AWA) is Australia's leading water sector body, representing over 10,000 water professionals around the country and across all water disciplines.
- AWA provides leadership in the water sector on a wide range of issues, including skills shortages, climate change and water reuse and recycling.
- AWA works to enhance the skills and knowledge of water professionals and promote and disseminate best practice through an extensive range of technical seminars, courses and events.