

# AUSTRALIAN WATER

ASSOCIATION

## MEDIA RELEASE

### ACT Water Awards winners announced

**8 September 2017**

Australian Water Association Chief Executive Jonathan McKeown congratulated the winners of the 2017 ACT Water Awards at the annual Water Leaders Dinner in Canberra last night.

“The awards recognise the outstanding contribution of individuals and organisations in the water industry across innovation, research, business and delivery of water projects,” Mr McKeown said.

“As an industry we congratulate the hard work, passion, dedication and enthusiasm shown by our ACT members who are genuinely progressing the sector and making a difference to our communities.”

The winners of the ACT Water Awards will automatically be entered into the equivalent National Australian Water Awards category, which will be presented at Ozwater’18 in Brisbane next year.

#### **Winners:**

##### **Infrastructure Project Innovation Award**

*Using Optimisation Models for Sewer Investment Planning – Icon Water and AECOM*

In an Australian first, Icon Water with AECOM and SEAMS have applied a novel Enterprise Decision Analytics approach to model future sewer asset interventions, costs, and performance over a planning horizon of a 20 year period. This application is a leading practice example of an emerging area in asset management using big data and an analytics tool to efficiently inform investment decisions.

##### **Research Innovation Award**

*Enlarged Cotter Dam Fish Monitoring and Research – Icon Water*

Icon Water, with the University of Canberra’s Institute for Applied Ecology, has delivered several innovative research projects to inform adaptive management which balance community water security with protection of an endangered fish population. The research showcases a sustained collaboration and commitment of a water utility, university, and Government, to deliver truly ecologically sustainable development outcomes.

##### **Student Water Prize**

*Identifying Critical Natural Resource Management Regions For Public Health – Aparna Lal, Australian National University*

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Aparna works as an ecologist in population health. Understanding how human health and the environment are related is critical to manage the impact of environmental change. Aparna's main research goal is to provide natural resource managers and health planners with information and effective tools to better manage ecosystems to protect public health.

Read more about her research in these articles:

<http://bit.ly/2j6Byi8>

<http://bit.ly/2f5LNQu>

## **Young Water Professional of the Year Award**

Bianca Petrevski, Acting Senior Stakeholder Engagement Officer, Icon Water

Bianca embodies Icon Water's core values of safety, excellence and openness and shares this with the Canberra community. Bianca is agile and outcome focused, with demonstrated advanced communication skills that ensure success with her campaigns. Bianca will continue to be a role model for her peers and community, and particularly for the water industry.

**Interviews and photos available.**

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### **About the Australian Water Association**

With a membership of over 5000 individual and corporate members, the Australian Water Association is Australia's biggest water network promoting sustainable water management and connecting members through three core principles of information, networking and recognition.

[www.awa.asn.au](http://www.awa.asn.au)