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MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Water Association announces 2016 National Water Awards winners

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The 2016 National Water Awards seek to recognise leaders of innovation across a number of fields within the water industry, including advocacy, research, infrastructure, programs and safety.

Held in Melbourne last night at the annual Ozwater conference, the Australian Water Association's prestigious 2016 National Water Awards ceremony paid tribute to the remarkable contributions made by water professionals and organisations from across Australia.

Australian Water Association CEO, Jonathan McKeown, said the awards were the highest accolade the Association can bestow, and that the 2016 recipients were some of the leading individuals and organisations in Australia ensuring a safe and sustainable water supply to build a prosperous Australia.

"The awards are an acknowledgement of the significant achievements and contributions that these water leaders have made. The recipients are widely respected by their peers nationally and internationally, and these awards give us the opportunity to reflect on their considerable body of work and the impact they have had on securing the water future for both Australia and overseas", Mr McKeown said.

ANZ are the National Water Awards sponsor and Managing Director of Loans and Specialised Finance, Christina Tonkin, congratulated the recipients on this recognition.

"ANZ is very pleased to sponsor the 2016 National Water Awards, which showcase the great array of expertise and innovative technologies in the water sector. Our ongoing partnership with the Australian Water Association was developed to support water and wastewater management programs and to further promote innovation and best practices in Australia and internationally; specifically in the Asia-Pacific region," Ms Tonkin said.

The 2016 National Water Awards recipients are:

Research Innovation Award

Advanced Condition Assessment and Pipe Failure Prediction Project, Sydney Water, Parramatta, New South Wales

This \$13.4 million project is an international collaboration including nine Australian water utilities, two international partners and three university research partners. The outcomes of the research have resulted in an increased understanding of failure mechanisms in large diameter, cast iron, cement lined and water pipelines. Utilities have used these findings to better target which critical pipes need replacement, leading to a significant decrease in expenditure on critical water main renewals and overall life cycle costs.

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Program Innovation Award

Energy Management Program, Allwater, Adelaide, South Australia

Allwater, a joint venture between Transfield Services and SUEZ, developed and implemented the first ISO 50001 certified Energy Management Program in Australia. The program was established to improve sustainability outcomes for the customers served across Metropolitan Adelaide. These outcomes were achieved through reducing electricity consumption, maximising power generation and in turn reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Infrastructure Project Innovation Award

The Suncoast-Coolum-Maroochydore Sewerage Treatment Plant Reconfiguration, Unitywater, Caboolture, Queensland

Faced with the need to cater for a growing population and step up environmental standards of two legacy sewage treatment plants, Unitywater chose an innovative approach. Achieving their objectives by reconfiguring the sewerage network and closing one of the plants, Unitywater's innovative thinking led to a whole-of-life saving of \$57 million and in addition met all environmental goals.

Water Industry Safety Excellence Award (sponsored by WSA)

The Vacuum Truck Snorkel Safety Initiative, TasWater, Moonah, Tasmania

A TasWater employee identified and eliminated potential health and safety issues with the development of a snorkel to be used in conjunction with vacuum pumping trucks. The snorkel can be lowered into a well using pump rails or a vehicle hoist, ensuring consistent delivery of a 50:50 air to liquid ratio allowing vacuum hoses to be immersed in the sewer matter and eliminating stoppages and backflow surges. This initiative eliminates confined space entry and other manual handling hazards associated with the pumping out of pits and wells.

Australian Stockholm Junior Water Prize (sponsored by Xylem)

Mohamed Jakaria, Queensland Academies Health Science Campus, Southport, Queensland

Mohamed's investigation examined the efficiency of *Elodea canadensis* in removing nitrate in effluent discharged from wastewater treatment plants. This was explored by answering the research question: What is the effect of increasing surface area of *Elodea canadensis* on the assimilation of nitrate in effluent discharged from Beenleigh wastewater treatment plant? This autotrophic aquatic plant's ability to use inorganic nitrogen for growth provides an ecologically friendly solution to the tertiary treatment of wastewater.

Undergraduate Water Prize

Scott Roy, University of the Sunshine Coast; SMEC Australia, with his paper, Passive Flood Barrier, Sippy Downs, Queensland

With over 20 years' experience in the water industry Scott is a qualified plumber and gasfitter with experience in all aspects of commercial and domestic water, sewer, stormwater, solar, LPG

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and natural gas systems. Scott's project tested the performance of a flow impedance barrier that activates automatically during extreme storm events. This automated function without the need for human intervention, triggers to rise and fall into place without the need for electrical power to operate, resulting in limited impediment to vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Young Water Professional of the Year

Kathryn Silvester, Chemical Engineer, Sydney Water, Parramatta, New South Wales

As a young leader in the industry, Kathryn dedicates herself both professionally and voluntarily to contribute to the future direction of the water sector. Her work at Sydney Water, has provided a strong foundation in both water and wastewater treatment. Whilst her involvement with the Australian Water Association, the International Water Association and Engineers without Borders has allowed her to make an impact beyond her nine to five job.

Water Professional of the Year

Marc Fabig, Director and Co-Founder, Osmoflo, Burton, South Australia

Marc, along with his wife, founded Osmoflo in 1991, which is located in Australia, the Middle East, South America, South East Asia and India. With over 25 years' experience in design and operation of high technology water treatment systems, Marc has been a key driver in Osmoflo's continued success, which has delivered over 450 projects globally. Marc's proudest achievement to date is recently winning the design and construct contract to provide ACWA Power Barka, Oman with a 57 million litre a day desalination plant.

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To arrange an interview with any of the National Water Award winners contact Australian Water Association Communications Manager Ashleigh James 0488 160 277.

[Ozwater](#) is the southern hemisphere's largest annual gathering of water professionals. More than 3000 delegates will attend this year's event, held in Melbourne from May 10–12, to hear from more than 200 expert speakers from Australia and abroad. The convention's theme is Water: For Liveable Communities and Sustainable Industries.

The Australian Water Association) is an independent, not-for-profit association for water professionals and organisations, providing leadership in the water sector through collaboration, advocacy and professional development. As Australia's peak water industry body, the Australian Water Association has the largest broadly based membership, with approximately 700 corporate members and 5,000 individual members representing the diversity and breadth of the Australian water industry.