

AUSTRALIAN WATER

ASSOCIATION

MEDIA STATEMENT

Tasmanian Young Water Professional of the Year heads to Australia's premier water industry conference

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The 2017 Tasmanian Young Water Professional of the Year, Rebecca Sayles, is heading to Australia's premier water industry conference where she will be in the running for national Young Water Professional of the Year, awarded annually by the Australian Water Association.

Presented at the Ozwater'18 Gala Dinner in Brisbane on Wednesday 9 May, the Young Water Professional of the Year is awarded as part of the Australian Water Awards which recognise outstanding contribution to the Australian water sector.

Employed by TasWater, Rebecca has 8 years' experience in the water and wastewater utility sector in roles as both a regulator and water utility professional. Rebecca has worked both nationally and internationally and holds an Engineering Doctorate. Despite her age she is a well-respected leader in the Tasmanian water industry.

"The award recognises young water professionals – those under 35 who have had outstanding career achievements to date, promoted careers in the water industry and raised awareness of water issues in the community," the Australian Water Association's Chief Executive Jonathon McKeown said.

Stornoway's General Manager Business Services, Camille O'Meara, was thrilled that the awards recognised young professionals, particularly women excelling in their industry.

"Whilst the water industry is making inroads into gender diversity, there is still work to be done. It's therefore pleasing to see most of the finalists in this year's national awards are women and we wish Rebecca every success."

"Stornoway proudly sponsors the Tasmanian Young Water Professional of the Year award and actively encourages women to seek recognition for their work in non-traditional industries, serving as role models for our future generations."

Rebecca is the second woman to be recognised in the Tasmanian awards, and past recipients have continued their successes. Last year's winner, Mark Rippon, also from TasWater, will be presenting at this year's Ozwater conference.

The Association's Tasmanian Branch President, Tim Gardner, said Tasmania is blessed with an outstanding cohort of young water professionals who are benefiting from the historically high level of activity in the local water sector.

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“Tasmania’s high level of investment in water infrastructure and service improvement is providing many opportunities for our young professionals, greatly increasing the likelihood of retaining this developing talent in our state”, Mr Gardner said.

“I’m particularly excited to see Rebecca heading to the Australian Water Awards with every chance of taking out the top gong. On behalf of the local industry, I wish her all the best.”

For further information, please contact:

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About the Australian Water Association

With a membership of over 5,000 individual and corporate members, the Australian Water Association is Australia’s biggest water network promoting sustainable water management and connecting members through information, networking and recognition.

www.awa.asn.au