

# AUSTRALIAN WATER

ASSOCIATION

## MEDIA RELEASE

### SA Water Awards winners announced

**20 November 2017**

Australian Water Association Chief Executive Jonathan McKeown has congratulated the winners of the 2017 SA Water Awards as they were announced last Friday at the SA Gala Dinner & Awards Night.

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

“This year saw a range of award submissions from a number of water utilities, universities, research institutes and councils, with projects ranging from urban and regional utilities infrastructure, to agricultural enterprises and public health studies. This is testament to the great work being carried out across all areas of the water sector in South Australia.

“As an industry we congratulate the dedication, passion and enthusiasm shown by our South Australian members who are making a genuine difference to our industry and communities.”

The winners of the SA 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:**

##### **Program Innovation Award**

*Adelaide Services Alliance Advanced Customer Complaint Mapping Program – Allwater and SA Water*

The Advanced Customer Complaint Mapping Program developed and designed by Allwater and SA Water’s Adelaide Services Alliance, enables operators to quickly observe individual and clusters of complaints on advanced Microsoft Excel mapping software. The software has real time links to SA Water’s maintenance program for up to date information on water quality and network performance. Operators can focus in on problems for faster resolution and also provide rapid feedback to customers.

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

*ATUM: Advanced Tertiary Ultrafiltration Management – Allwater, SA Water and SUEZ*

The ATUM (Advanced Tertiary Ultra-filtration Management) project presents an impressive scale-up of laboratory tests to a full-scale plant trial, factoring in wastewater treatment plant variables as part of the assessment of ultra-filtration performance. The potential benefits of the research include delaying significant capital expenses associated with ultra-filtration module replacement and the ability to apply the research to many other ultra-filtration plants.

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## **Infrastructure Project Innovation Award**

*Sundrop Farms Project* – John Holland Group

The Sundrop Farm project has changed the paradigm of what fully sustainable, high quality food production actually means - not just nationally, but globally. The project demonstrates the ability for high quality food production with sustainable sources of water and energy, and with minimal reliance on the weather or on access to arable soil. The social benefits of this project include 300 delivery phase jobs and up to 200 ongoing full time jobs within the so called 'Iron Triangle' area of South Australia which has faced significant economic challenges over the last two decades.

## **The Hodgson Medal: Student Water Prize**

*Smart Monitoring for Microbial Risk Assessment* – Sarah Aucote, Flinders University

Sarah's Honours project investigates assays targeting mitochondrial DNA as a new and novel approach to tracking sources of faecal contamination in water supply systems. Sarah's research has definite potential to provide a decreased cost of performing microbial risk assessments, leading to widespread improvements in monitoring and risk management, which in turn will improve Health Based Target compliance, particularly in regional areas.

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

Adam Medlock, Operations Manager, Riverland Region, TRILITY

Adam has demonstrated confidence in his own technical capability and creativity to find solutions to difficult water process problems in both his career at TRILITY and his voluntary efforts for the water industry. He is an outstanding leader and mentor to junior engineers. He has helped operational staff develop their careers through technical training and presentations to their peers. He has shown compassion for helping people in a remote Nicaraguan village through WaterAid to develop a reliable and safe water supply which will make a profound difference to their lives.

## **The Premier's Water Medal: Water Professional of the Year Award**

Richard Hopkins, Chief Executive, International Centre of Excellence in Water Resources Management (ICE WaRM)

Richard has had a 40-year career in water management and is recognised as an international expert in his field, having worked in more than 20 countries. In recent years, his leadership has led to the recognition of the International Centre of Excellence in Water Resources Management (ICE WaRM) in Adelaide as the premier water training centre in Australia, which has been a critical factor in establishing South Australia's reputation as a world leader in water resources management. Through his leadership, strong links have been developed between ICE WaRM, the Water Industry Alliance, Goyder Institute for Water Research, SA Water and the three main South Australian Universities, ensuring a concerted and consistent promotion of the water resources management expertise in the State.

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## Highly Commended:

### Infrastructure Project Innovation Award

*Adelaide CBD Smart Water Network – SA Water*

The Adelaide CBD Smart Water Network has already demonstrated in its first 6 months the significant environmental, economic and social benefits of smart network technology through extensive leak detection and repair on customer properties as well as enabling identification and repair of network faults before they become major bursts. This project sets a new benchmark for intelligent and efficient management of a modern urban water network.

### The Hodgson Medal: Student Water Prize

*Do particles in wastewater protect pathogens from disinfection?* – Charndee Chahal, Flinders University

Charndee's detailed characterisation of pathogen and particle interactions in treatment systems provides a wide and comprehensive database to draw conclusions. This research has the potential to benefit water utilities for both water and wastewater treatment, improving the understanding of current pathogen disinfection processes and how particles can interfere with pathogen inactivation.

## OUR SPONSORS

The 2017 South Australian Water Awards were proudly sponsored by SUEZ (Gold Sponsor); TRILITY (Young Water Professional Award Sponsor); Water Industry Alliance (Infrastructure Project Innovation Award); The Department of Water and Natural Resources (Premiers Medal Sponsor); SMEC and Inside Infrastructure (Dinner Sponsors); Fulton Hogan (Entertainment Sponsor) and WSP (Pre-Dinner Drink Sponsor).



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## Interviews and photos are available. For media enquiries, contact:

Melania Berehovy  
Australian Water Association  
P: 02 9467 8425  
E: [mberehovy@awa.asn.au](mailto:mberehovy@awa.asn.au)

## 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.

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