

# MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Ronan Carroll Ph: 5150 4434



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## London calling

East Gippsland Water's Sarah Johnston cannot wait to dip her toes in the water industry on the other side of the world as her prize for winning a prestigious leadership award.

The Executive and Board Operations Officer beat off stiff competition from her peers in water corporations across Victoria to scoop this year's Leadership Development Award, run by VicWater, the state's peak body for water businesses.

Entrants were carefully assessed against various criteria; most notably their leadership potential, including their ability to inspire, motivate and develop others.

Her prize sees her heading off shortly to the UK, for a three month placement with leading water corporation Thames Water, where she will work alongside their executive team on a number of key projects.



*Sarah is congratulated by Managing Director, Bruce Hammond, and VicWater's Chair, Mark Lawlor*

Said Sarah: "I'm thrilled to have been selected as the winner of this award. To me this represents the ultimate professional development opportunity, combining overseas travel and a professional secondment with the biggest UK water company.

"Going to work with a business that has 14 million customers will be quite an eye opener. I hope to be able to bring back many valuable tools to assist East Gippsland Water and the wider water industry in areas such as Board governance, customer service, regulation, innovation and strategy.

"I would like to express my sincere thanks to the East Gippsland Water Board and staff for their support and guidance, and VicWater for creating such a brilliant opportunity. "

East Gippsland Water's Managing Director, Bruce Hammond, said: "It's great to see Sarah's professional skills and commitment to work rewarded in this way. We look forward to her debrief on the UK water industry and I am sure she will return with a lot of valuable information to share with her colleagues here.

"Her winning the award bears testimony to the high calibre of staff we have at East Gippsland Water and how well our workforce is regarded by others in the Victorian water industry."

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