## MEDIA RELEASE

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## Celebrating the best drop of tap water in the state

East Gippsland Water is celebrating three prestigious water industry awards, including one for the best tasting tap water in Victoria.

The corporation went into competition with water corporations from across the state in this year's Orica Victorian Water Taste Test, with a tap water sample from the Bairnsdale area judged the best by an independent panel of experts.



Managing Director Bruce Hammond (second from left) celebrates the awards with the East Gippsland Water team at the conference

The announcement was made at the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Victorian Water Industry Operators Conference last week, where the Best Young Operator of the Year was also named as East Gippsland Water's Aaron Mitchell - team leader for the operations and maintenance team based at Omeo. In addition, the corporation's Wastewater Treatment Team Leader, Jarrah Feather, won an award for the best paper presentation by an operator.

Said East Gippsland Water's Managing Director, Bruce Hammond: "These awards are a tremendous achievement, not least because they show how highly we are regarded by our peers in the water industry. They are a great reflection of the commitment and professionalism of our staff, and the pride they take in their work and in providing a high quality service to customers.

"Bairnsdale's tap water originates from the Mitchell River and is treated at our Woodglen Water Treatment Plant. This plant came into operation three years ago to ensure consistent supplies of high quality water for thousands of customers between Lindenow in the west and Nowa Nowa in the east, including the major communities of Bairnsdale, Paynesville and Lakes Entrance.

"Winning the water test represents a great endorsement of our investment in the plant. It is also particularly satisfying as it builds on us finishing runner-up last year with water from Dinner Plain."

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