



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**August 2008**

### **Gold Coast student honoured for helping rescue the world's rivers**

A Gold Coast PhD graduate and Gold Coast Water employee who established an early warning system to rapidly detect wastewater treatment problems is one of five young Australian scientists recognised for improving the outlook of the world's rivers.

Kylie Catterall, a finalist in the 2008 *Riversymposium* Young Water Scientist Award (in partnership with GHD), joins four other young Australian scientists acknowledged for their innovation in water conservation and management. Dr Catterall is in the running to win \$3000 and will present a paper outlining her project at the 11<sup>th</sup> International *Riversymposium* in Brisbane on Tuesday 2 September, 2008.

Griffith University PhD graduate Ms Catterall established the early warning system to help ensure high quality recycled water can be consistently produced from water that carries wastes from homes, businesses and industries.

Dr Catterall's system will enable the presence of toxic wastewater or an overload of nutrients to be identified very quickly.

Her study resulted in a \$150,000 grant from the Australian Research Council to further develop and potentially commercialise the early warning system.

Other finalists vying for the Award include James Neal (Sydney) Kathleen Ahern (Brisbane), Kasper Johansen (Brisbane) and Thang Nam Do (Vietnam). Their projects include research to improve water use on dairy farms and a study which slowed the rapid growth of toxic blue-green algae in South East Queensland.

GHD Business Manager (Water and Environment) Ross Fryar said the company is proud to partner with the International *Riversymposium* and support the development of the prestigious Award.

"As a large engineering and architecture company, GHD understands the future challenges faced in managing our environmental footprint and we recognize the opportunity to bring together a range of professionals working to achieve better outcomes," Mr Fryar said.

"GHD became involved in the Award because at any time one quarter of our business is involved in a water project somewhere in the world. Our goal is to build interest among other students and encourage more to enter in coming years."

The Award was established in 1998 and has evolved into a prestigious annual event to celebrate the excellence of young Australian water scientists.



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and the Queensland Government



# RIVERSYMPIOSIUM

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

The 11<sup>th</sup> International *Riversymposium* in partnership with GHD will present the winner of the 2008 Young Water Scientist Award during the morning plenary session on Wednesday 3 September.

More information on the Award and the 11<sup>th</sup> International *Riversymposium: A Future of Extremes* can be found at [www.riversymposium.com](http://www.riversymposium.com)

**ENDS**

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