



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### YOUNG QUEENSLAND SCIENTIST WINS PRIZED NATIONAL AWARD FOR WATER MANAGEMENT

Griffith University PhD graduate Kylie Catterall from the Gold Coast was awarded the 2008 *Riversymposium* Young Water Scientist Award today for her innovative work involving the treatment of water to help rescue Australia's rivers.

Dr Catterall was presented with the prestigious accolade in Brisbane during a plenary session on day three of the 11<sup>th</sup> International *Riversymposium: A Future of Extremes*.

The *Riversymposium* Young Water Scientist Award is conducted in partnership with GHD Pty Ltd and recognises Australian scientists under 35 for their innovation in water conservation and management.

The Gold Coast Water employee will receive \$3,000 in recognition of her work to establish an early warning system to rapidly detect wastewater treatment problems.

Dr Catterall established the system to help ensure high quality recycled water could be consistently produced from water that carries wastes from homes, businesses and industries. The 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.

GHD Business Manager (Water and Environment) Ross Fryar said he was extremely impressed with all five finalists and praised Dr Catterall's innovative project.

"As a large engineering and architecture company, GHD understands the future challenges faced in managing our environmental footprint. Dr Catterall's project demonstrated the qualities we were looking for – a thorough understanding of industry needs and an ability to demonstrate positive outcomes," Mr Fryar said.

The other four finalists were Kathleen Ahern (University of Queensland), James Neal (The University of Sydney), Thang Nam Do (Australian National University) and Kasper Johansen (University of Queensland).

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

The 11<sup>th</sup> International *Riversymposium* – A Future of Extremes is part of *Riverfestival*, a dynamic 10-day annual celebration of Brisbane's iconic river, its people, art, culture and environment.

More information on the Award and *Riversymposium* is available on [www.riversymposium.com](http://www.riversymposium.com).

**ENDS**

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Riverfestival is an initiative of Brisbane City Council and the Queensland Government