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National Student Water Prize win

Congratulations to Sarah Aucote, winner of the *2018 Australian Water Association's Student Water Prize*. Sarah was awarded this prize for her Honours research using novel DNA technology for tracking sources of faecal pollution, which was conducted at our research laboratories in Adelaide. This is a fantastic achievement for Sarah, who faced strong competition from excellent PhD candidates.

This annual award recognises excellence in water-related studies and research. The winner selection is based on a written submission as well as an oral presentation at *Ozwater*. In her project *Smart monitoring for microbial risk assessment*, Sarah developed DNA-based assays to allow the detection of faecal contamination in water and identification of the host source (human or animal) responsible for the contamination.

These new assays provide us, and other water utilities, with an innovative solution for identifying water quality risks in catchments that are used to supply drinking water. This information is critical as the source of faecal contamination determines the level of potential risk to consumers and the type of treatment required to ensure that water is safe to drink.

Sarah was supervised by Dr Fiona Young from Flinders University and Dr Paul Monis from our Research team.



Winner Sarah Aucote (centre) with supervisors Fiona Young (left) and Paul Monis (right) at the AWA Gala dinner and awards night

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