

## Award recognises operators making a difference to the lives of Tasmanians

TasWater operators from the state's south and north have been recognised in this year's Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA) Excellence in Operations awards.

The coveted Operator of the Year award was taken out by Rex Townsend, a Water Services Operator based out of the Derwent Valley and Central Highlands areas.

"It was totally unexpected," Rex said after finding out he won the award.

"It's more a team effort, the award is more a recognition of the service that our whole team provides to the small communities that we work in," he said.

Rex has been working in the water industry in Tasmania for about 28

years with his dedication to customers, safety and his fellow staff a big reason behind the recognition.

"A standout for me since being at TasWater was the work I did on upgrades at Wayatinah and Bronte Park in 2018," Rex said.

"I had a hands-on role with the contractors and getting the new pipework and pump station organised, as a ratepayer in the area it was something I was passionate about.

Lately, I have also been getting satisfaction out of helping our young operators and passing my knowledge onto them."

The Young Operator of the Year award for Tasmania, which was also

presented in the WIOA Excellence in Operations awards was won by Launceston's Dean Edsall.

These awards recognise the hard work our staff are undertaking to deliver essential services to Tasmanians, while also highlighting TasWater's ongoing commitment to training and career opportunities in local communities.

As part of their prize, the pair will travel to New Zealand next year, border restrictions permitting, to see how water treatment plants operate in another country.

**2021 Tasmanian Operator of the Year Rex Townsend with TasWater Service Delivery General Manager David Hughes-Owen**

