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## Media Release

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### **North West Coast student takes out TasWater Scholarship**

This year's Steve Balcombe Scholarship recipient is Devonport student Ryan Smith.

Ryan has just completed year 12 at Ulverstone's Leighland Christian School and is now enrolled to complete a Bachelor of Science (Catalyst Program) at the University of Tasmania.

The scholarship is offered by TasWater to support a student studying in an area relevant to the water industry such as engineering, environmental science and earth science.

It honours the inaugural Chairman of Hobart Water, Steve Balcombe who had a distinguished career in both the public and private sectors in Tasmania before his premature death in 2001.

This year there were more than 60 applicants.

Ryan will receive \$3000 for each year of his university course along with professional and mentoring support through work placements and upon graduation will have the opportunity to take up a graduate position at TasWater.

Congratulating Ryan, TasWater CEO Michael Brewster said TasWater is proud to be part of the scholarship to encourage and develop career paths for young water industry professionals.

"It provides hands on experience, enabling recipients to be part of real projects with real outcomes."

"The scholarship also helps ensure Tasmania has the skills base to develop a long-term sustainable water and sewage sector to service the community and protect the environment."

Ryan is happy to embrace this sentiment and is planning to ultimately base his future career here.

"Tasmania has great potential for young scientists working in the area of environmental and agricultural science with countless opportunities into the future. The scholarship will help financially too, especially since I have to live away from home," said Ryan.

Michael Brewster said TasWater is very pleased to offer ongoing support for the Steve Balcombe Scholarship, now in its nineteenth year.

"Steve was an engineering graduate from the University of Tasmania and played a pioneering role in developing the water industry in the state as we know it today," Mr Brewster said.

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