

# AUSTRALIAN WATER

ASSOCIATION

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Young Aussie inventor heads to Stockholm for World Water Week

**23 August 2019**

Young Aussie inventor Macinley Butson will represent Australia in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize during World Water Week on 25-30 August.

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize is the biggest international water science competition for high-school students and is hosted annually by the Stockholm International Water Institute.

The Australian Water Association runs the Australian competition with the long-standing support of Xylem.

“Xylem has a strong culture of innovation within our company and believe that industry need to support our next generation to work towards solving the escalating water challenges around the world,” Jim Athanas, Managing Director of Xylem said.

“Xylem are proud sponsors of the ASJWP and are blown away by the level of creativity and innovation through the submissions each year.”

As the winner of the 2019 prize, 18-year-old Macinley Butson will represent Australia in the international competition in Stockholm, Sweden.

Macinley developed the SODIS Sticker for her entry, an innovative ultraviolet radiation sticker that can accurately measure the solar UV exposure required to sanitise drinking water.

Macinley was driven to develop this invention to give everyone access to safe drinking water.

“I have grown up in a country where I have access to a safe water source, however, the water crisis which exists worldwide is constantly on my mind,” she said.

“This inequality always drives me to try to help those less fortunate, providing access to this basic human right through science and engineering.”

Given that one out of three people globally use a biologically contaminated water source, Macinley’s invention is a cost-effective solution for providing developing communities with safe drinking water.

Australian Water Association Chief Executive, Jonathan McKeown says the Australian and global water industry has much to be proud of and even more to look forward to.

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"It is so impressive to see how young people are tackling the world's water challenges with such passion and in the process helping to meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 6: clean water and sanitation for all," he said.

"The Stockholm Junior Water Prize gives us hope that these young inventors will continue to play a huge role in solving global water challenges as future water leaders."

"On behalf of the entire Association and Xylem, we would like to wish Macinley the best of luck in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize. We are so proud of you and hope you have a great time during World Water Week."

*The 2020 Australian Stockholm Junior Water Prize is now open for entries until Monday, 16 December. To find out about the competition and to enter, visit [www.awa.asn.au/asjwp](http://www.awa.asn.au/asjwp).*

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**About the Australian Water Association**

The Australian Water Association is Australia's biggest water network inspiring and driving a sustainable water future. We provide individuals with career enrichment and organisations with business opportunities as we **share** information and knowledge, **connect** members with industry and stakeholders, and **inspire** positive change. [www.awa.asn.au](http://www.awa.asn.au)