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Gary Mitchell  
Committee  
Water Directorate  
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Dear Water Directorate

### 2009 Water Directorate Conference Attendance Award

Thankyou for being nominated to attend the OzWater Conference held in Melbourne from the 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> March this year.

This was my first OzWater conference and I must say, it was a great experience to observe and learn from the variety of water and sewerage industry projects within the country and around the world such as the following:

- Climate Change and Water - Observations of a polar explorer and scientist (Tim Jarvis, Explorer and Author, Environmental Scientist, URS Australia)
- Cities of the future, energy in the water industry (Paul Brown, CDM, USA)
- Diversification strategies (Kerry Schott, Sydney Water, NSW)
- Tackling the skills shortage (Tom Mollenkopf, AWA, NSW)
- Clearing the air – Lessons learnt from a 5 year network odour management strategy (Paul Hansen, South East Water Ltd, VIC)

The above presentations are just a few of the many, which I attended taking plenty of notes (14 pages to be exact) and asking questions. I now have the information and examples of projects that are both practical and economical, which I can investigate further and utilise within the Upper Hunter Shire Council.

The excellent display of trade exhibitions at the one location also provided me with the opportunity to discuss planned, future projects and network with contractors and suppliers that can assist the Upper Hunter Shire Council.

The challenge by Allan Gale (Chairman OzWater 09 Committee) and Erini Cini (AWA National President, Young Water Professionals) to take the ideas from the 2009 OzWater Conference and be proactive in our working environment I have to accept, especially as a young engineer. I will do my best to champion and promote these ideas within the Upper Hunter Shire Council for the benefit of both current and future generations.

Once again I'll like to thank the Water Directorate for the opportunity to attend The 2009 OzWater Conference, as I have gained further professional development, networking opportunities and the ability to gain the most up to date information of technology and solutions to issues that the water and sewerage industry are currently facing.

Yours faithfully

Sione Holoafolau  
MANAGER WATER & WASTE

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