



Institute of Water
Administration

Laurie Gleeson Professional Development Award – \$10,000 Study Tour Grant

The Laurie Professional Development Gleeson Award supports excellence and leadership in the Victorian water sector by providing \$10,000 to fund a study tour that advances capability, insight, and innovation across the industry.

Its purpose is to strengthen sector-wide knowledge by enabling a Victorian water professional to investigate leading practices, technologies, or approaches that can meaningfully enhance water management in Victoria.

This is not limited to technical and engineering insight and extends to communications and engagement, people management, corporate governance, technology and systems as well as continuous improvement.

Purpose of the Award

The award is designed to:

- Advance the Victorian water sector's knowledge base by supporting a focused study tour on a topic of strategic importance.
- Enable recipients to explore best practice locally, nationally, or internationally, with the intention of bringing valuable insights back to Victoria.
- Encourage thought leadership and knowledge-sharing across the sector in honour of Laurie Gleeson's legacy of collaboration and innovation.

Candidate Expectations

Applicants should submit a two-page proposal and video (up to five minutes) that clearly demonstrates:

- What they plan to learn through the study tour, including the topics, locations, organisations, or innovations they intend to explore
- Why this learning matters — specifically, how the study tour will contribute to capability uplift, innovation, resilience, or improved outcomes across the Victorian water sector
- How new knowledge will be transferred back into the sector, including mechanisms such as workshops, reports, industry forums, publications, or communities of practice
- A confirmed commitment to present their findings at the AWA Victorian Annual Conference, ensuring insights are shared broadly across the sector

Additional Beneficial Information

To strengthen applications and maximise the award's value, candidates are encouraged to:

- Demonstrate alignment with key sector challenges, such as climate adaptation, circular economy, water resource security, digital transformation, or community engagement.
- Outline collaboration opportunities, including partnerships with utilities, regulators, research institutions, or international peers encountered during the tour.
- Provide a clear dissemination plan, ensuring learnings are accessible and actionable for practitioners across utilities, government, and industry.
- Highlight how the proposed study tour will contribute to long-term sector development, including potential pilots, policy insights, innovation pathways, or applied research opportunities.
- Reflect the water sector's spirit of leadership, curiosity, and practical impact, showing how their work will continue his legacy of progress within the water industry.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Organisational Support

- A letter of support from the applicant's member organisation, confirming endorsement of the proposed study tour and commitment to enabling participation and knowledge sharing.

2. Strength of Knowledge Sharing Approach

- The quality and credibility of the proposed knowledge transfer and dissemination plan
- Clear pathways to ensure insights are shared, adopted and applied across the sector

3. Potential Sector Impact

- The extent to which the proposed topic addresses priority challenges or opportunities for the Victorian water sector
- Likely contribution to innovation, capability uplift, resilience or improved outcomes
- Evidence that the study tour will generate practical, actionable insights

4. Leadership and Contribution to Sector Collaboration

- Demonstrated commitment to collaboration, thought leadership and ongoing contribution to the sector in line with the legacy of Laurie Gleeson

Application and Selection Process

The Laurie Gleeson Professional Development Award follows a structured annual cycle:

- **July – Call for Applications:** The award is advertised across the sector and member organisations.
- **September – Applications Close:** All submissions, including proposal, video and supporting documentation, are due.
- **September–October – Assessment:** Applications are assessed against the agreed selection criteria, with shortlisting and evaluation by a sector panel.
- **Annual Conference – Announcement:** The successful candidate is announced at the IWA Annual Conference.

The recipient will subsequently present their study tour findings at a future Annual Conference, ensuring sector-wide knowledge sharing.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be a current member of the IWA or a current employee of an IWA member organisation, (including all Victorian water corporations).

Submit your Nomination

Please send your completed nomination and supporting paperwork to executive@iwa.org.au before the closing date – **30 September**.

To send **videos**, it's preferred that they be uploaded to a video platform, like [Vimeo](#), and the video link be shared in the submission email.

Queries

Any queries, please contact executive@iwa.org.au.

2026 Submission Timeline

30 July	Nominations open
30 September	Nomination period closes
October	Selection panel assesses nominations
18 November	Award recipient/s announced at IWA Conference