

2018 Emerging River Professional Award



2018

EMERGING RIVER PROFESSIONAL
AWARD

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GUIDELINES



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The Emerging River Professional Award (ERPA) is an initiative of the International RiverFoundation (IRF), established to recognise and foster early career river professionals who have demonstrated innovation, excellence and leadership in river, basin, or river-dependent community management. The ERPA is generously sponsored by OceanaGold Corporation.

The ERPA is open to all river professionals who have been working in their field for 5 years (excluding postgraduate studies) or less and who have demonstrated exceptional and measurable achievements in rivers, basins or river-dependent communities. Recognising the wide range of professionals that contribute to the future of our rivers, ERPA is open to professionals from all disciplines - whether scientists, policy makers or on-ground river managers. While teams are essential in all facets of river management, this award focuses on celebrating individual achievements, and rewarding hard work, dedication, innovation, and leadership. These qualities will ensure a bright future for rivers and basins globally.

Finalists will be selected through the evaluation of written submissions and oral presentations demonstrating leadership and project achievements (e.g. development of a new catchment management initiative, establishment of a new waterway group) or showcasing significant research as part of a Masters or PhD program.

ERPA finalists will be afforded the opportunity to attend the 21st International Riversymposium to be held in Sydney, Australia from 14-18 of October 2018 and present the outcomes of their work - giving a voice to our future water leaders. The winner will be announced at the Riverprize Gala Dinner on Tuesday, 16 October. If you feel that you have undertaken noteworthy work in this area, or you know someone who deserves recognition for his or her achievement, consider submitting an entry for this prestigious Award. If you nominate someone else, make sure they will meet the eligibility criteria to enter (see below).

RECOGNITION AND BENEFITS

- ERPA finalists will be eligible for financial support (capped) to travel to and attend the 21st International Riversymposium in Sydney, Australia from 14-18 October.
- ERPA finalists will receive one free registration for the 21st International Riversymposium (valued at \$1295)
- ERPA finalists will be recognised through the publication of project summaries on the International RiverFoundation.
- ERPA finalists will be promoted through the International RiverFoundation channels.
- The overall winner will receive a monetary prize (amount to be confirmed)
- The winner will feature in an article in the International RiverFoundation newsletter after the Riversymposium.



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WHO CAN ENTER?

Professionals from anywhere in the world who have been working in their field for 5 years or less, and:

- can demonstrate leadership and positive outcomes, or can showcase outstanding research in a river related field;
- are available to attend and present at the 21st International Riversymposium* if selected as a finalist; and
- have completed their work (or a phase of a larger project) within the 2017 calendar year (although work could have been commenced at an earlier date).

* Please see Terms and Conditions (point 10)

HOW TO ENTER?

1. Read the Entry Guidelines carefully to ensure the candidate's eligibility.
2. Complete the online Entry Form showcasing the candidate's leadership and initiative in the river sector. The form is available at <http://riverfoundation.org.au/our-programs/emerging-river-professional-award/>
3. Submit completed online entry form and associated documents by **COB 10th of July 2018**.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 10 July** Applications close for the 2018 ERPA at 5pm Australian Eastern Standard Time
- 1 August** Finalists announced (all candidates will be notified before public announcement is made)

FINALISTS ONLY

- 8 August** Confirm availability to attend and present for final judging at the 21st International Riversymposium and **register online**. Finalists will qualify for the discounted rate for Emerging Water Professionals and will participate in the Emerging Water Professionals Program during the conference.
- 17 September** Deadline to provide a short video to be used for marketing purposes. (Further guidelines will be provided at the time of being named a finalist.) Be prepared to respond to questions seeking project clarifications from the judges.
- 16 October** 12 to 15 minute oral presentations during the 21st International Riversymposium
- 16 October** Announcement of ERPA winner at the Riverprize Gala Dinner

ENTRY PROCESS AND ASSESSMENT STAGES

STAGE ONE – ENTRY AND SELECTION OF FINALISTS

Application submission

All candidates to submit a completed [ERPA Entry form](#) including:

- Short abstract summarising the content of the work to be presented for award consideration (maximum 200 words);
- Extended summary describing candidate's contribution or research findings (maximum four A4 pages);
- Biography (maximum one A4 page);
- Three references; and
- One jpeg image of the candidate for promotion if selected as a finalist (at a suitable quality for reproduction in newsletters and webpages).

The extended summary must:

- communicate the candidate's work/research findings clearly, in language and style that a typical end-user will understand;
- show that the work/research reflects key objectives of delivering high-quality outcomes including:
 - show that the work/research has involved sound project management or research design, method selection and that conclusion(s) are evidence-based; and
 - show that the work/research has grown out of a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of previous work in the area; and
- demonstrate the proposal is largely the candidate's own work, rather than part of a large team project.

Judging

A panel of independent judges will select a maximum of three (3) finalists based on the candidate's full application. Judges for the ERPA will be announced on the International RiverFoundation website and will disclose any conflicts of interest regarding the candidates prior to participating in judging activities.

Finalists

The ERPA finalists are announced by email to the candidates. Candidates will be advised if they are selected as a finalist by 1 August 2018.

STAGE TWO – SELECTION OF AWARD WINNER (FINALISTS ONLY)

Short Video

Each finalist will provide a short video of their work (maximum 2 to 3 minutes). This video is for promotional purposes only and will **not be used in the judging process**. Professional editing of the video is not required. The videos must be submitted by **17 September 2018**.



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- Oral Presentation** Each finalist will present their work at the 21st International Riversymposium as a speaker in a special session. The judges will choose the ERPA winner on the basis of these presentations and their assessment of the finalists' work/research.
- Each presentation should be 15 minutes in length with an additional 5 minutes question time from the judges and audience. The conference organisers will assign a session time for each finalist, to be advised closer to the date of the International Riversymposium. A session chair will introduce the ERPA presentations and manage the allocated presentation time for each of the finalists.
- Judging** After the judges attend and assess all finalists' conference presentations, they will then confer for a final assessment based on a combination of the written submissions and conference presentations.
- Winner Selection** The announcement of the 2018 ERPA winner will be made at the 21st International Riversymposium Gala Dinner. ERPA runners up will also be recognised at this time.
- Every effort will be made to promote the winner's and finalists' successes as widely as possible. Candidates should make themselves available for possible media opportunities

JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges will base their assessment on the following criteria:

- Quality Process** Candidates should clearly show the planning, design and execution process in development of project/research and showcase initiatives used in the face of difficulties.
- Interpretation of Results** Candidates must demonstrate the outcomes of their work, its relationship to existing knowledge or practice and future implications for rivers and river basin management.
- Communication** Candidates must show clarity of thought within their presentation both from a written and (if a finalist) oral perspective.
- Potential Impacts** Candidates should highlight how their work will impact on future research and/or the practical relevance of their work.
- Leadership** Candidates should clearly demonstrate the leadership aspects of their work. If working as part of a team, the candidate's role and contribution to the overall project should be clearly identified.
- Innovation** If possible, candidates should demonstrate how their work has been innovative in contributing to their field and to integrated river basin management.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

WRITTEN SUBMISSION FORMAT

Submissions **must** comply with the following format:

Electronic	All nominations must be in electronic form and submitted using the entry form template provided
Language	All entries must be written in English
General	Candidates must spell out acronyms and abbreviations in the first instance
Length	Extended summary content cannot exceed the four A4 page limit. This limit includes tables, diagrams, photos, references and acknowledgements. Please note that judges may not read beyond this length.
Paper size	A4 (21cm x 29.5cm)
Type font	Arial
Font size	10pt
Line spacing	Single spacing
Compatibility	Microsoft Office

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please note the submission of the entry form represents your understanding of the following conditions:

1. Candidate must have been working in their field for 5 years or less (excluding postgraduate study).
2. Candidate should provide three references supporting the work done and the candidate's role in it.
3. Nominations, supporting material and documentation remain the property of the International RiverFoundation, however the intellectual property of all projects/research remains with the candidate.
4. The International RiverFoundation has the right to use submitted documentation for the purpose of marketing and public relations.
5. Finalists must provide a short (2-3 minute) video about their work by 17 September 2018.
6. Finalists must be available to give their oral presentation in Sydney between 15 and 17 October 2018.
7. Finalists must confirm their intention to attend the *Riversymposium* to present their oral presentation by 8 August 2018.
8. Candidates chosen as finalists will qualify for the Emerging Water Professionals Program at the 21st International *Riversymposium*.
9. Candidates must register online by 28 August 2018.
10. If any named finalist is unable to attend, the candidate who has received the next highest score will be offered the opportunity to attend and if available, will replace the previously named finalist. This will be decided by 10 July 2018, prior to the public announcement of the finalists.
11. All due items must be submitted by close of business (5pm) AEST of the due date.
12. All finalists can request funds to support conference registration, travel to and from Sydney, and accommodation expenses up to a maximum of AU\$1500. Funding allocation will be awarded at the discretion of IRF.
 - a. Finalists must organise and book their own travel and accommodation associated with their mandatory attendance at the *Riversymposium*. The International RiverFoundation can assist with accommodation recommendations.
 - b. Should you be named a finalist and be unable to source adequate funding to attend (through assistance from your employer, institution / government, or personal funds) please contact the *Riversymposium* office immediately after the finalist announcement.
13. Contact with any member of the judging panel prior to the announcement of the winner will render the entry invalid.
14. The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
15. The judging panel will draw attention to any conflict of interest they may face during the process in relation to candidates.

CONTACTS

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