

VIC YWP Subcommittee 2022 Nomination Statements

Theekshana Kodippili | Stantec

I've worked in the water industry as an engineering consultant for three years, specializing in water and sewer infrastructure planning. I'm passionate about providing smart and integrated infrastructure solutions that are adaptive towards climate change and community needs. I've previously been a part of the Victoria Region Engineers Without Borders and the Melbourne University Engineers Without Borders committees, both as an events manager. I've been an active member of the AWA for the last three years and have benefited greatly from its culture of sharing and collaboration. I think there is further opportunity for knowledge sharing from other industries and I'd love to bridge that gap and see where, as young professionals, we could guide the future water industry. As a committee member, I'm active, empathetic and take a co-creative approach towards launching events and initiatives. I'd love to connect with my fellow team and walk away with lifelong friends as I've seen happen in previous committees.

Vivian Gong | GHD

As a soon-to-be graduate, I am greatly enthusiastic about the prospects of joining YWP committee. Having begun my water journey in a public water utility, I aspire to make a lasting impact through engineering water infrastructure that can safeguard our current generation and beyond. In partaking in a like-minded community, I hope to actively contribute by fostering meaningful connections and propel positive changes within the water sector, particularly those starting out. In taking up a range of university club roles, I enjoy connecting and collaborating in diverse teams to deliver shared objectives. As President of Monash ACES (Association of Civil Engineering Students), I lead my team of 20+ across different portfolios in delivering social, academic and industry events to cultivate a well-rounded and enriching experience for students. I hope to leverage upon such skills and attitude to provide career enrichment and community engagement opportunities for AWA members.

Lachlan Guthrie | Mott MacDonald

I am a process engineer with 2 years' experience in the water industry starting as an undergraduate engineer with Yarra Valley Water and moving to Mott MacDonald as a graduate in 2021. During my time at university, I held general committee and leadership roles in the faculty student society which involved leading the organisation of events including social functions and technical talks, as well as advocating for student interests. Currently I am a committee of the Melbourne University Volleyball Club, managing operations across the men's state league teams. I would bring these skills with me to support YWP initiatives and foster connections and collaboration between young professionals from across the industry. It's important to work together to solve the challenges facing the water industry and the YWP committee has a critical role in creating these connections, which is a fantastic opportunity that I would love to be a part of.



VIC YWP Subcommittee 2022 Nomination Statements (cont)

Laura De Rango | GHD

I am a Process Engineer in GHD's water and wastewater treatment team, with 4 years' experience working on a range of projects, from strategies and feasibility studies to all stages of design. I have recently spent 2 years on the GHD YP Committee. As the Community Rep, I worked with the Brotherhood of St Lawrence to organise GHD staff as volunteer tutors for disadvantaged high-school students. In 2019 I was the GHD Fundraising Lead for the WaterAid 'Winnovators' program, and at Monash University I was the President of the Chemical Engineering Society. My main area of interest is increasing the participation of YPs from across the water industry in AWA events, as I believe it is extremely important to network and learn outside your workplace. For these reasons, I am excited to actively contribute to and expand my knowledge of the water industry as a YWP committee member.

Edward McDonald | Sequana Partners

The Water Industry is an exciting and challenging space with many multi-disciplinary projects that bring together diverse and dynamic teams. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Civil Engineering Systems) from the University of Melbourne in November 2020, was a member of the Melbourne University Environmental Engineer's Society, and have since joined Sequana Partners as an analyst. I have worked on a range of projects within the Victorian water landscape, including complex projects under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. I have been drawn to the Water Industry as water is a crucial resource to sustain life and wellbeing in Australia and want to further my contribution to the industry, as a member of the Victorian YWP Committee. I am very excited at the opportunity to work with fellow water professionals across the public and private sectors to deliver insightful events for AWA Members. I love working within a team environment and look forward to expanding my network to support the industry.

Sam Beer | Greater Western Water

My journey in the water industry began in 2020, having recently completed my two-year graduate program with Greater Western Water. Being a part of the AWA in 2021 (including being a part of the AWA Mentoring Program and attending the Vic Regional YWP/IWN Conference) was invaluable to my development, and I want to be able to give back and assist in the running of future events for our members. I'm an analyst in the Water Resources team at GWW and have a keen interest in working towards ensuring long-term water security for our customers and our state. If successful, I'd relish the chance to engage with like-minded young professionals across our industry. I'd be a hard-working subcommittee member who would listen to the thoughts and inputs of fellow committee members to help create high-quality events and opportunities for everyone in the AWA.

Sumudu Withana | AECOM

My passion in water is creating a sustainable water future. In my eyes this is done through:

- Integrated water management
- Maintaining water security
- Caring for country.

AWA has a strong platform to voice these ideas through for example, networking events which provide opportunities for young water professionals to exchange critical ideas and share resources in order to inspire positive change. As a water resource engineer, I have worked on a range of projects from rail and road to windfarms and solar farms throughout Victoria and beyond, all of which placed a high importance in creating a secure, sustainable water future. I have held positions on various committees since University so understand the expectations required and I enjoy the community and comradery spirit they bring. As such, I want to be a part of collaborating with other like-minded young water professionals and am eager to take on this amazing opportunity.



VIC YWP Subcommittee 2022 Nomination Statements (cont)

Claire Huynh | AECOM

I am very passionate about water sustainability and humanitarian engineering and believe I would bring a unique perspective to the YWP subcommittee. As a dam engineer my work in the water sector is of a generalist nature with experience ranging from dam surveillance and monitoring, flood risk assessments as well as geotechnical and structural design. The dam engineering space is highly technical with a strong focus on the safety of the dam structure. As a result, we have few opportunities to consider dam engineering with a broader perspective of sustainability. I would like to be a part of the YWP subcommittee as I aspire to change this and explore ways to ingrain sustainability attitudes in roles that don't typically prioritise the environment. I believe I can offer the committee my optimistic attitude and open mindedness with a practical lens.

Dominic Murray-Fiume | Stantec

I'm a Civil Engineer/Project Manager within Stantec's Water Group and am passionate about building genuine relationships to drive collaborate problem solving in the water industry. I'm experienced in water/wastewater network planning, integrated water management, civil design and asset management. Alongside my technical role, I am the Country Leader for Stantec's Developing Professionals Group. Within Australia, this consists of 350 professionals who and aim to inspire positive change within the company and our communities. I've just finished my first term on the AWA YWP committee member and have contributed to our university outreach efforts, mentoring programs and 2022 YWP Ball. Prior to this, I volunteered on EA's Women in Engineering Committee for two years and have mentored in through various industry programs. Moving forward, I wish to continue using my platform and network to facilitate new relationships within the Victorian water sector through our mentoring program and various professional development/networking events.

Deepak Surendhra Mallya | Deakin University

I am an aspiring 3rd year PhD candidate working on developing next generation filtration membranes incorporated with nano materials for desalination and removal of harmful contaminants from water. I am a scientific professional with over 4 years of research experience and expertise in membranes and advanced water treatment technologies. With a background in chemical engineering, I am motivated to contribute towards water and wastewater treatment industries with a design thinking and collaborative approach. I have been a committee member for the Chemical engineering department and Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers student chapter during my Bachelors. I have experience in organizing various events and successfully initiated member participation programs as well build innovative solutions. It would be a great learning opportunity to be part of the YWP sub-committee (Vic) and contribute as well as build up collaborative approaches to solve water sector problems.

Miranda Cowley | GHD

I am a civil engineer working in GHD's water resources group in Melbourne, working on projects across Victoria's water industry on a daily basis. My previous committee experience includes university committees for the Richardson Hall Society and Monash Ultimate Frisbee clubs. I am finishing my term on the GHD Young Professionals Committee in July and am currently on the Our Future Cities committee. I held various roles across these committees and love working with others to deliver great outcomes. I want to be on the VIC YWP committee to get more involved in the Victorian water industry and meet other water professionals. I bring a positive, enthusiastic and outgoing personality, great self motivation and initiative as well as an enjoyment of working collaboratively with others. My areas of interest (and growing expertise) are long-term water security and integrated water cycle planning.



VIC YWP Subcommittee 2022 Nomination Statements (cont)

Dr Flora Markis | Arup

I am a senior process engineer in Arup's Water Team. I've been in the Water Industry for more than 7 years and hold a PhD specialising in reducing energy requirements in the wastewater treatment process. I have primarily worked on water and wastewater treatment planning and design in Australia, an area that has been both challenging and rewarding! I have an extensive research experience in water and wastewater treatment, obtained in Australia and on an international scale, in France. I have presented at various IWA conferences and am considered an expert on various topics within the water industry. I am an AWA NSW Newcastle branch committee member helping young water professionals connect and promoting AWA's opportunities. I am a mentor for the AWA Mentoring Program. I am also a member of Women in Industry (Wil) which supports and promotes women in different industries and positions of leadership! My vision for the committee is to continue bringing more of the YWPs of our industry together – across regions, across more parts of our industry, and across levels of experience, including in university. I'd love to get the chance to contribute this to the committee over the next year. I see us YWPs learning together at seminars and talks, collaborating on outreach programs, and getting to know each other at the social events!

Jorja Strack | Mott MacDonald

I am a civil engineer who joined the Mott MacDonald water team in 2018, I have worked on numerous network planning projects for water authorities around Victoria as well as more recently being involved in drainage design and flood modelling on several major projects across Melbourne and Sydney. I am passionate about sustainability and climate action and particularly interested in helping clients to develop strategies to reduce carbon and meet their net-zero targets. I have also recently enjoyed supporting renewable energy projects, including pumped hydropower projects in Queensland. I would love to join the committee and get involved with a range of activities and support initiatives surrounding Project 2 (Sustainable Development Goals) of the AWA's Strategy'22. I would especially like to promote leading digital innovation and operation improvements/optimisation, across Australia and globally, for the net-zero pathway. This could include assisting with online learning series, discussion panels, and international guest presenters.

Natasha Alexandra Frazer | RMCG

Natasha currently works at RMCG as a consultant within the wastewater and resource recovery sector. She has a diverse range of experience in regional wastewater, particularly regarding EPA legislation, wastewater treatment, recycled water and biosolids management. Natasha came to Australia from Argentina to undertake Bachelor of Science (Chemical Systems) at the University of Melbourne. Since joining RMCG, Natasha has worked in a range of projects mainly in regional Victoria. Natasha is passionate about decentralized and regional solutions, being in the field and working in a diverse range of projects to widen her perspective on wastewater management. She hopes to see a water sector which is more diverse, more involved in the circular economy, gender equity and climate change discussions and therefore she wishes to join the subcommittee. Natasha is eager to engage in constructive discussions. Her regional perspective and willingness to collaborate will be an asset to the YWP Subcommittee.

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Christopher Lee | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Hello water sector! I'm Chris and am a keen Young Water Professional working on water policy and its interactions with the economic regulatory framework within DELWP (Vic Gov). I'm currently on the YWP Committee and am seeking renomination so that I can continue in my duties as a National YWP Taskforce Representative especially as we had lost a bit of traction during COVID where we were still confirming all my interstate counterparts. As the previous inaugural International Rep for the YWPs, I'm proud to have also established a few initiatives such as a successful International APAC Showcase and stronger bonds with international YWPs and do hope to bring this enthusiasm to my Taskforce role. I do have strong interests in IWM and WSUD so will also be keeping my eyes open on how to best integrate (and price them) into the water sector and one of my key reasons for being on the committee is to try and promote better connections between policy, science and operations within our sector.

Stephanie Brown | E2Designlab

I am an environmental engineer, passionate about catchments and communities and dedicated to the protection of Australian waterways. My experience spans includes major integrated water management strategies, green infrastructure guidelines, water sensitive urban design, waterway restoration, and catchment management studies. Previous committee experience: 2018-19 committee for Women in Engineering Queensland What will I bring to the committee?

1. An interstate perspective, hailing from Queensland and experience on projects in NSW, Qld, Vic and NT
2. Insights into the urban water sector, including the latest work on Melbourne's Healthy Waterways Strategy stormwater flow objectives
3. Relationships with research through the Waterway and Ecosystem Research Group at the University of Melbourne

Why do I want to be on the committee?

1. To give back to the Victorian water industry
2. To shape upcoming events
3. To build relationships with other young water professionals in Victoria

Ali Rahimi | Aquatec Fluid Systems

I have been an active member on the AWA YWP committee for two years where I have had the pleasure of being on the media and communications sub-committee. I have also volunteered at several Victorian AWA events most recently as a mentor in the AWA's popular Mentoring Program. I am a water industry all-rounder with an expertise in project management. I am also currently studying law part-time at RMIT University. My background and my history of volunteering in other volunteer-led organisations such as Engineers Without Borders means that I will bring a broad perspective to the AWA YWP committee. I am keen to continue my contribution to the committee by championing professional development events that provide valuable knowledge sharing and networking opportunities befitting our post COVID transition.