

MEDIA RELEASE

Peter Cullen Postgraduate Scholarship awarded to wetland scientist

Wednesday 20 May 2009

NSW Water Minister Phil Costa has announced the winner of the inaugural Peter Cullen Postgraduate Scholarship during the AWA Awards Dinner held in Darling Harbour this evening.

Mr Costa said the scholarship had been awarded to University of New South Wales PhD student, Ms Celine Steinfeld.

“This is a very prestigious scholarship that honors the work and achievements of the late Professor Peter Cullen,” Mr Costa said.

“It gives me great pleasure to present the first scholarship to Ms Steinfeld, whose studies into water management in the Macquarie Marshes and Gwydir Wetlands will assist our understanding of NSW floodplains.”

As the scholarship recipient, Ms Steinfeld will receive \$20,000 each year for three years to help with the cost of her studies and be invited to participate in a mentoring program run by the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, of which Professor Cullen was a founding member.

“Professor Cullen was larger than life and had a great passion for using sound science to help inform decision-making and water management by all levels of government,” Mr Costa said.

Ms Steinfeld said it is a tremendous honour to receive the inaugural Scholarship.

“It inspires me to pursue research into the science and management of our precious wetlands and rivers,” Ms Steinfeld said.

“This scholarship gives me an opportunity to access key wetland systems, explore emerging wetland mapping techniques and engage with the scientific community and specialists within government.”

The Peter Cullen Postgraduate Scholarship will be awarded each year. Applications for 2010 will be advertised later this year.

The scholarship is co-sponsored by NSW Government water agencies including the Department of Water and Energy, Sydney Catchment Authority, State Water, Hunter Water and Sydney Water.

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