

MEDIA RELEASE



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Environmental Biotechnology CRC Pty Limited
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Top QLD biotechnologist wins prestigious science award

Professor Linda Blackall, Research Director at the Environmental Biotechnology CRC (EBCRC), has won an international award for outstanding contributions to activated sludge population dynamics in the field of wastewater treatment.

The 2nd Ardern Lockett Award was presented this week at a Gold Coast-based specialist conference on Biological Wastewater Treatment, organised by the International Water Association (IWA).

Linda is a pioneer in applying advances in biotechnology to environmental management. “Biotechnology is not just the domain of pharmaceuticals and agriculture”, she explains. “The giant technological leaps in these sectors over the last few years can be adapted to improve Australia’s environmental management and contribute to sustainability”.

“This exciting new biotechnology sector covers all environmental services including pollution control, waste management and environmental clean up. The research will also contribute to the increased re-use of water in Australia, and technologies developed could be worth billions of dollars to Australia”, Linda says.

Prof Linda Blackall completed her PhD in the field of wastewater microbiology in 1987. She is the co-editor of the benchmark book - The Microbiology of Activated Sludge - and is regularly invited to present her findings at international conferences. In honour of her outstanding research, Linda was awarded the Frank Fenner Research Award by the Australian Society for Microbiology in 2001.

Prof Blackall is on the editorial board of 4 international journals, and is highly successful in attracting funding to QLD for research and postgraduate supervision. This award recognizes the enormous contribution Linda has made to wastewater management technologies in Australia and overseas.

The EBCRC does collaborative research in environmental biotechnology with the Universities of New South Wales, Queensland, Macquarie and Murdoch, and the South Australian Research and Development Institute.

EBCRC’s research includes developing biotechnologies for improving wastewater treatment, cleaning up contaminated sites, effectively detecting pathogens in water and creating new, useful products from waste.

Further information on the EBCRC can be obtained from Michaela Lauren, phone: +61 2 9209 4970 , email: m.lauren@ebcrc.com.au

For interview: Prof. Linda Blackall, phone 07 3365 4645, 0407 038 239