

## Media Release

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For immediate release

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### Regional horticulture research effort recognised

Horticultural water management practitioner, Dr Gerrit Schrale, has received the prestigious Riverlink Award for 2008 for his achievements in collaborative salinity and natural resource management research in the Sunraysia-Riverland region and nationally.

Riverlink is the peak regional scientific research network responsible for coordinating horticultural research and development in the Sunraysia-Riverland region. The Riverlink Award recognises the outstanding contribution of a Riverlink research team, staff or industry member to regional collaboration, research and extension.

Riverlink Council Chair Max Tolson said, "During his career, Dr Schrale had made a major contribution to the development and delivery of a series of collaborative tri-state projects on natural resource and salinity management in Sunraysia-Riverland."

"Dr Schrale's work on the projects with staff members within and beyond Riverlink, led to improved water management and water use efficiency in vineyards, improved monitoring and management of root zone salinity, the development of an Irrigation Recording and Evaluation System for on-farm irrigation management and the successful commercialisation of a soil water extractor."

As the winner of the Riverlink Award, Dr Schrale receives a cash prize, commemorative plaque and recognition within the Riverlink network and the community. The winner was selected from nominations submitted by Riverlink agency and industry representatives.

Further information on Riverlink can be found on the website [www.riverlink.gov.au](http://www.riverlink.gov.au).

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