



AUSTRALIAN  
CONSTRUCTION  
ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD

Engineering House  
11 National Circuit  
Barton ACT 2600  
Phone (02) 6270 6555  
Fax (02) 6273 2358

## Media Release

Saturday 10 May 2008

### Perth's saltwater desalination project is Australia's best construction achievement

The Perth Saltwater Desalination Project, undertaken by Brookfield Multiplex, was declared Australia's most outstanding example of construction excellence at the 2008 *Australian Construction Achievement Award* dinner in Melbourne last night, Friday 9 May.

The award was presented by the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, AC, CVO, MC, and was accepted on behalf Brookfield Multiplex by Mr Marshall Hudson, National Director of Engineering.

The annual award was hosted by Mr Wal King AO, President of the Australian Constructors Association and Ms Julie Hammer AM, CSC, the National President of Engineers Australia.

The Chair of the 2008 ACAA judging panel, Mr Anthony Shepherd, commented that the judging panel had a difficult task of choosing between six very different but excellent projects, and that the Perth Seawater Desalination Project was a large, complex, fast tracked project.

"The project achieved full environmental compliance while incorporating sustainability through design and equipment and is now exceeding the client's performance requirements.

"It also demonstrates the viability both economically and environmentally of desalination," he said.

The \$300 million plant for the Water Corporation of Western Australia is a key initiative of the Western Australian Government to provide approximately 17 percent of Perth's drinking water. The project was delivered by the proAlliance consisting of Multiplex Engineering, Degremont SA and the Water Corporation WA.

The project involved the design and construction of a 144 ML/day seawater reverse osmosis desalination plant, which is the third largest in the world, in an 18-month period.

The unique design, procurement, construction and operation of the plant, including the use of renewable energy, energy recovery, the relatively small, ecological footprint and extensive ocean monitoring program, makes the project a truly sustainable, climate independent water source.

Page1/2

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The plant was successfully built on a footprint of only 6.3 hectares and encompassed the installation of intake and outfall pipelines and an intake receiving structure within the protected waters of Cockburn Sound.

The processes developed for the project were far more complex than for any conventional water treatment plant, not only because of issues relative to the corrosive nature of seawater, but also in producing a pristine quality of seawater to feed the reverse osmosis system.

The key environmental challenges such as consultation, approvals and regulations, concentrate management and marine monitoring, energy and aesthetics, were all paramount during all stages of construction and will continue for throughout the life of the plant.

The other five finalists were:

**Bundamba Advanced Water Treatment Plant Stage 1A, Queensland - Thiess Black & Veatch Joint Venture.** The \$186.6 million project is a key component of the Queensland Government Western Corridor Recycled Water Project.

**CQPA Berth 4 Expansion Works and Shiploader 3, Gladstone, Queensland - John Holland Pty Ltd** - The \$171 million project for the Central Queensland Ports Authority will increase the loading capacity of the port from 40 million tonnes per annum to 65 million tonnes per annum.

**New MetroRail City Project in Perth - Leighton Kumagai Joint Venture.** The \$333 million project for the Public Transport Authority of WA is the Perth inner city component of the Southern Suburbs Railway.

**North-West T-Way, Sydney – Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd.** The \$350 million project, that includes a 10-year maintenance period, for the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority, is a 24km bus only transit way through the north-western suburbs of Sydney.

**Warragamba Dam Deep Water Recovery, Sydney – Baulderstone Hornibrook Pty Ltd.** The \$62 million project for the Sydney Catchment Authority will provide an additional six months of water to Greater Sydney by giving access to deep water at the bottom of Warragamba Dam.

Previous winners of the Australian Construction Achievement Award have been: Southern Cross Station, Melbourne; Runway Main Construction Works, Tullamarine; The Bond, Sydney; the Alice Springs to Darwin Rail Link; Brisbane's Inner City Bypass project; Woronara Bridge in NSW; Queensland Clean Fuels project; Stadium Australia, Sydney; Wandoo B Offshore Oil Platform; and the ANZAC Bridge, Sydney.

**Further information:** John Bright – 0407 234 490  
[jbright@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:jbright@engineersaustralia.org.au) / [www.aaa.net.au](http://www.aaa.net.au)

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