

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Phil Costa**  
**Minister for Water**  
**Minister for Corrective Services**



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### **SYDNEY'S DESALINATION PROJECT WINS NATIONAL AWARD**

Sydney's Desalination Project has won the Government Partnership Excellence Award at Infrastructure Partnerships Australia's National Infrastructure Awards, held in Sydney last night.

NSW Minister for Water, Phil Costa said the award was evidence of the success of the NSW Government working with the private sector to deliver infrastructure.

"This award is testament to the outstanding work the public and private sectors have done in partnership to deliver Sydney's \$1.89 billion desalination project," Minister Costa said.

"The massive infrastructure project was delivered on time, and \$60 million under budget.

"The desalination project is part NSW Government's Sydney Metropolitan Water Plan to secure Sydney's ongoing water supply into the future – alongside key initiatives such as water recycling and water efficiency.

"The desalination project is the biggest water infrastructure project completed in NSW since Warragamba Dam was built 60 years ago.

"In just four years, the project has evolved from an idea, to a reality – the world's second largest desalination plant, supplying water to Australia's biggest city.

"I congratulate Sydney Water and their project partners and subcontractors, who put in over seven million hours of work across 26 sites to successfully deliver this project on time and under budget.

"I also congratulate the over 5,000 workers who have worked on the desalination plant and pipeline from start to finish.

"The plant at Kurnell is the largest desalination plant in Australia and has been designed so it can be quickly doubled in size if required in future.

"The 18-kilometre pipeline connecting the plant to Sydney's main water supply involved innovative construction techniques, including the laying of twin 1,400-millimetre diameter pipes in trenches across the floor of Botany Bay – a world engineering first."

The desalination plant was built by the Blue Water Joint Venture, comprising John Holland and Veolia Water Australia. The pipeline was built by the Water Delivery Alliance, comprising Bovis Lend Lease, McConnell Dowell, Worley Parsons, Kellogg Brown & Root, Environmental Resources Management and Sydney Water.

"Sydney's desalination plant can supply up to 15 per cent of Sydney's water needs, and its power needs are fully offset by renewable energy produced at Capital Wind Farm in Bungendore," Minister Costa said.

"Along with dams, recycling and water efficiency, desalination is one of four key ways to ensure Sydney has enough water in the future.

"By 2015 we will be recycling up to 12 per cent of Sydney's water needs. Water efficiency

measures including installing water efficient taps, showerheads and washing machines, active leak detection and repair, and Water Wise Rules will save up to 24 per cent of greater Sydney's water needs in the near future."

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