

WATER CORPORATION MEDIA STATEMENT

Desalination plant passes the 100 billion litres of water mark

Perth's groundbreaking seawater desalination plant at Kwinana has reached a major milestone with more than 100 billion litres of water reaching customers taps from the plant following its commissioning in early 2007.

Water Corporation Chief Executive Sue Murphy said today that Australia's first major desalination plant had well and truly lived up to expectations and was now destined to play a major role for years into the future by consistently supplying about 17 per cent of the drinking water used by three quarters of the Western Australian community.

The plant was built by a consortia led by the French-based international desalination company, Degremont and is operated by Degremont and the Corporation.

Mrs Murphy said it was also very pleasing that along with the water production milestone the operations and maintenance team that keeps the plant running 24 hours a day was also celebrating more than 1290 days without a lost time injury since late November 2006 when the first water was produced to begin the commissioning phase.

"There is no doubt that the success of our desalination plant triggered plans to build similar facilities in several other parts of Australia and local and international interest remains very high," said Mrs Murphy. "It has operated largely as expected because of the expertise and commitment provided by the pro Alliance team involving both Degremont and the Water Corporation."

Mrs Murphy said the plant had also demonstrated in its first two years that it could operate with no impacts on the environment.

"An enormous amount of effort and science was put in to ensuring that there would be no environmental impacts through the operation of our plant," she said. "It is satisfying that this work has been entirely successful and in fact has provided us with invaluable additional knowledge that we will now put to good use in the construction and operation of the new desalination plant in the south west.

Mrs Murphy said major works on the site of the Southern Seawater Desalination plant would begin before the end of this month".

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