

MEDIA RELEASE

SACYR WATER WINS AWARD IN AUSTRALIA FOR INNOVATIVE SOLUTION AT BINNINGUP DESALINATION PLANT

- **A new approach that makes the plant's cartridge filters last six times longer, while reducing waste and maintenance, has won a Western Australian Water Award.**

Binningup, Australia, 17 November 2026 – Sacyr Water has won the **"Innovation for Sustainable Water and Environmental Outcomes"** award at the 2026 Western Australian Water Awards for a solution it developed at the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant, which it operates in Binningup.

The solution lets the plant **clean and reuse its cartridge filters on site** instead of discarding them after a single use, as is standard practice. Through a chemical cleaning process that uses the plant's existing infrastructure, the filters now last an average of **167 days, up from 27**.

The volume of water each cartridge filters has also jumped, from an average of **556,000 m³ to 2.7 million m³**. The approach reduces material use and waste, cuts manual handling and maintenance work, and increases plant availability.

The initiative is a practical example of the **circular economy in water treatment** and offers a template that other desalination plants could follow.

The winners will now represent Western Australia at the **Australian Water Awards**, which will take place in Sydney in 2027.

Communications Department:

Tel.: + 34 91 545 52 94 / 5153
comunicacion@sacyr.com
https://sacyr.com/en/press-room/press-releases

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Binningup desalination plant

The Southern Seawater desalination plant in Binningup can produce **305,000 m³ of drinking water a day**, meeting more than **34% of Perth's water demand**. It is the second-largest desalination plant in Australia by output and the seventh largest in the world. It is also the largest anywhere to use ultrafiltration as a pre-treatment, a technology that has made it an industry benchmark.

The plant recently reached a milestone, producing **103.3 gigalitres (GL) in a single year** and exceeding its design capacity of 100 GL.

The plant was built by a consortium led by Sacyr Water. Its first phase began operating in 2011, followed by the second in 2013.

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