

Tunnelling Project of the Year (between \$10M and \$100M)

Winner

Southern Seawater Desalination Plant - microtunnelling and supply of jacking pipe

Tunnelling contractor |

Zublin Australia

Main contractor | Southern Seawater
joint venture

Client | Water Corporation,
Western Australia

Shortlisted

- Adelaide Desalination Project
- Cleaner Seas for Sussex Scheme
- Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project
- Pecine Tunnel in Rijeka, Croatia
- Tottenham Court Road Station
Upgrade for London Underground

The Southern Seawater Joint Venture contracted Zublin to manufacture and install two intake tunnels and one outfall tunnel to service a new desalination plant as part of an initiative to ensure Western Australia's future water supplies. Zublin produced the HDPE lined concrete jacking pipes from its factory in South East Asia and shipped them to Australia to be used for the tunnel construction. The tunnels constructed formed a shore crossing beneath pristine sand dunes and the ocean in an environmentally sensitive area of south west Western Australia. The tunnels were designed with alignments that traversed underground, across the shore and beneath the seabed for between 850m and 950m and designed in a curved "S" shaped spiral requiring the use of leading edge equipment and a highly skilled workforce. All tunnels were completed within a

few millimetres of the designed completion point. TBMs worked to an offshore location from where they had to be removed and brought back to shore.

Judges' comment

"The project overcame considerable technical damages and risks associated with both ground conditions and geographical location; offshore recovery of a TBM is not for the faint hearted."

