



National Centre of  
Excellence in Desalination

Australia

# Australian Desalination Research

Presentation to  
Texas Water Development Board  
28 February 2013

David Furukawa, CSO

# Australia's Desalination Plants

## The Big Six

Reverse Osmosis

Green energy offsets for 5, RECs for 1

Media and membrane pretreatment



# Perth Seawater Desalination Plant



- Located in Kwinana
- 38mgd Capacity: 40,552 AF/Y
- 24 MW Power Required

- 140 mg/L Product Water
- Commenced operation in Nov. '06
- **Wind Power is used as offset**

Courtesy of Water Corporation

# Perth Seawater Desalination Plant

## Sustainable Power - Wind Energy

### Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Stanwell/Griffin Joint Venture - Emu Downs  
wind generation facility – at Badgingarra  
200 north of Perth

Water Corporation is purchasing 66  
percent of the energy output  
24 MW (185 GW hrs/annum)  
Opened on 12 November 2006



Courtesy of the Water Corporation



# Gold Coast Desalination Plant



- Located in Tugin
- 36 MGD Capacity: 38,000 AF/Y
- Total Capital Cost: \$943 million
- Purpose: Supplement surface supply in dry years

- Commenced operation in Nov. '08
- **Green Energy (REC) as offset**
- Status: Hot Standby Mode; local reservoirs near capacity



# Sydney Desalination Plant



- Located in Kurnell
- 66 MGD Capacity: 77,000 AF/Y
- Total Capital Cost: \$1.44 billion
- Purpose: Supplement surface supply in dry

- Commenced operation in Nov. '10
- **Wind Power is used as offset**
- Status: Standby Mode: Local reservoirs near capacity

years



National Centre of  
Excellence in Desalination

Courtesy of Sydney Water



# Adelaide Desalination Plant



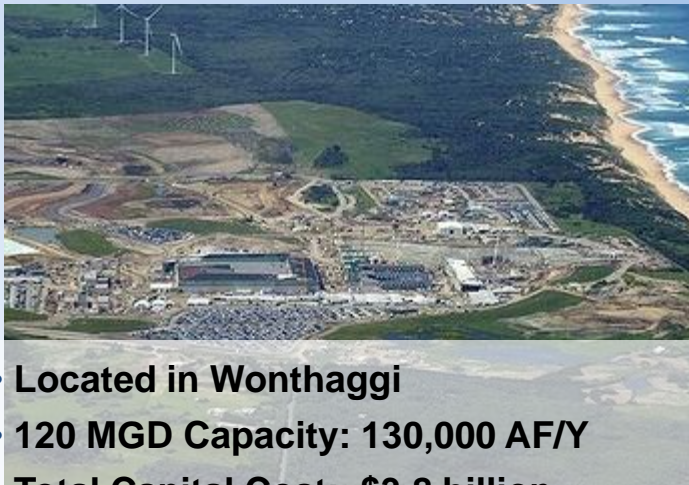
- Located in Port Stanvac
- 72 MGD Capacity: 70,000 AF/Y
- Total Capital Cost: \$1.5 billion
- Purpose: Supplement surface supply in dry years

- To commence operation in Jan. '13
- **Wind Power is used as offset**
- Status: To be placed in Hot Standby Mode; reservoirs and river flows at high levels





# The Victorian Desalination Project



- Located in Wonthaggi
- 120 MGD Capacity: 130,000 AF/Y
- Total Capital Cost: \$3.8 billion
- Supplement Surface Supply in dry years



- To commence operation in Dec. '12
- **Wind Power as offset**
- Status: Commissioning



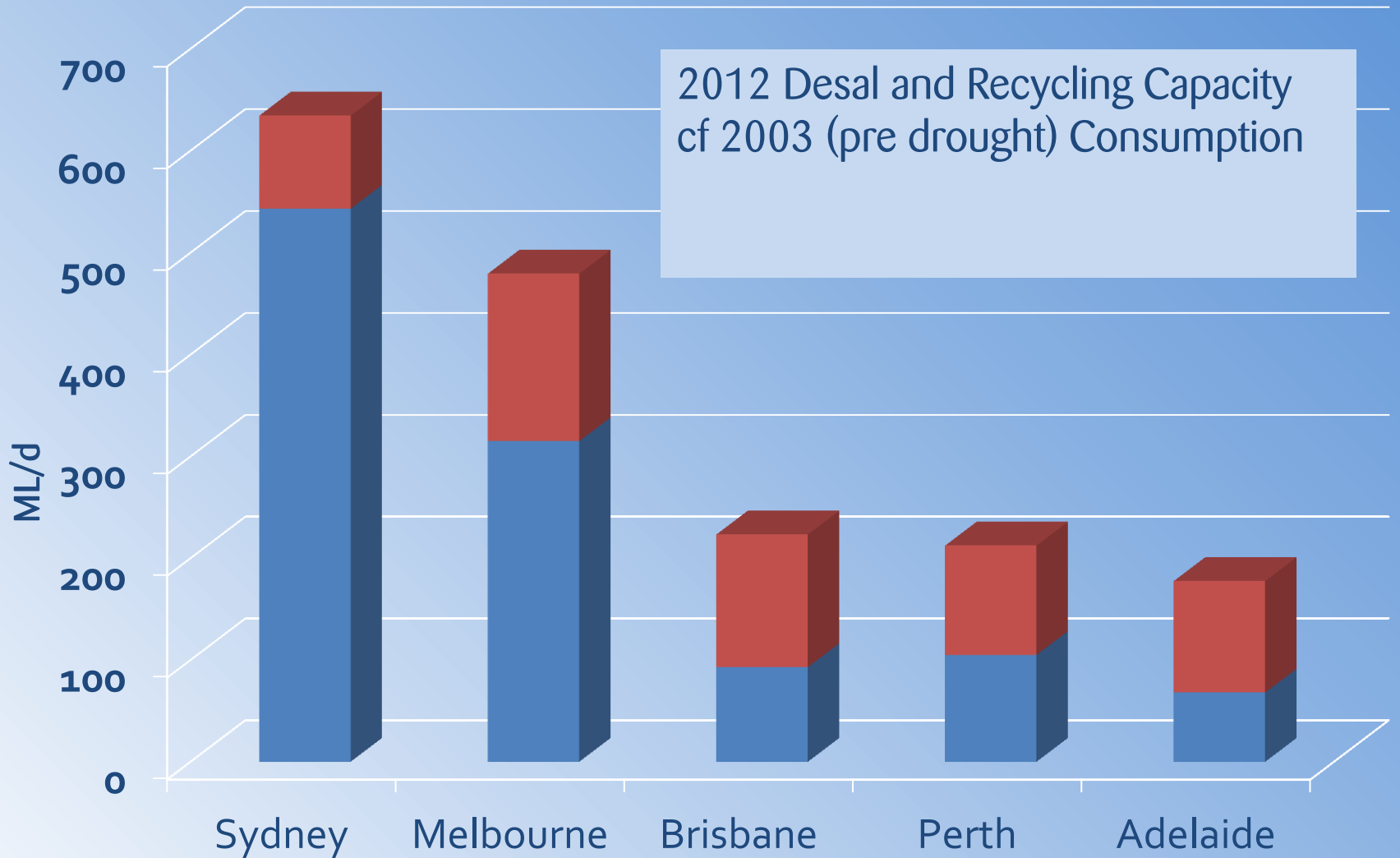


# Southern Seawater Desalination Plant



- Located in Binningup
- 80 MGD Capacity: 85,000 AF/Y
- Total Capital Cost: \$1.27 billion
- Purpose: Base load core supply
- Commenced operation in Sept. '11
- **Wind / Solar/ Wave Power as energy offset**
- Status: Phase 1: operating  
Phase 2: commissioning

■ Trad ■ Desal



Note: Brisbane desal capacity includes Western Corridor recycling



# The National Centre of Excellence in Desalination Australia

- ◆ Established in 2009
- ◆ \$20m funding over 5 years from Australian Government's Water for the Future Initiative
- ◆ \$3m funding from WA Government
- ◆ Research Roadmap developed



**Australian Government**  

---

**Water for the Future**





National Centre of  
Excellence in Desalination  
AUSTRALIA

Rockingham Desalination  
Research Facility







Membrane distillation

# 14 Research Partners



University of Wollongong







## Australia

Universities

Research  
centres

Water  
utilities

Mining

Government

Other  
industry



## World

USA

Asia

Europe

Middle  
East

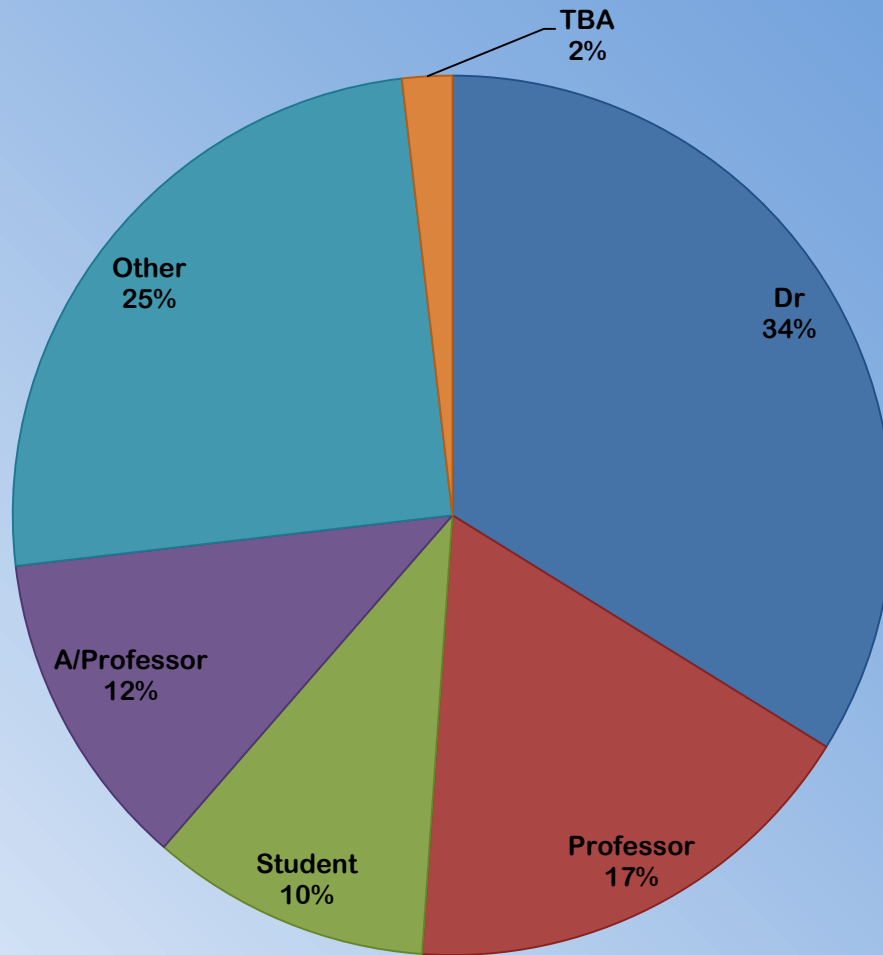
**Over 90 national and  
international research  
partners**

More than 30 international collaborators include:





# 272 researchers





National Centre of  
Excellence in Desalination  
AUSTRALIA

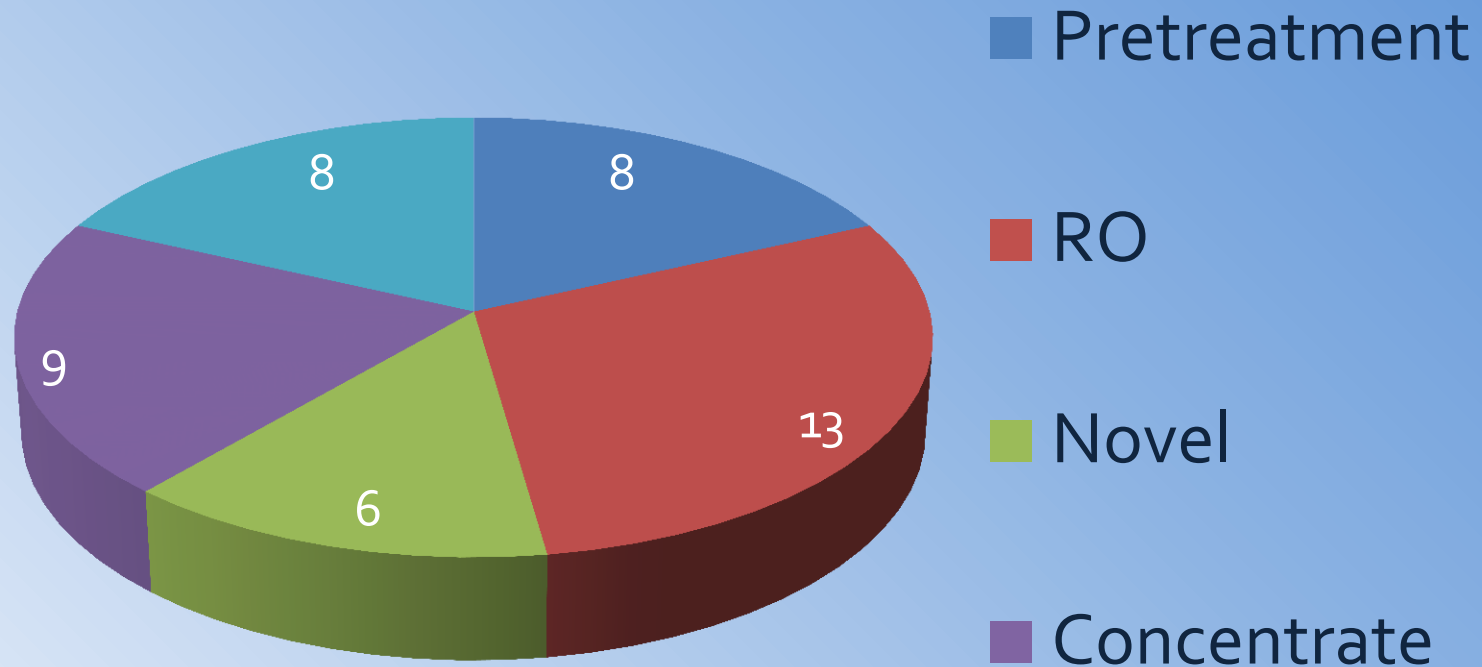
# Research Projects



# Research Projects

Funding Round	Projects	NCEDA Funds	Partners Cash and In Kind	TOTAL
1	11	\$2.8m	\$8.2m	\$11.0m
2	12	\$3.0m	\$6.9m	\$9.9m
3	10	\$2.5m	\$6.1m	\$8.6m
4	10	\$2.7m	\$6.3m	\$9.0m
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>\$11.0m</b>	<b>\$27.5m</b>	<b>\$38.5m</b>

# Projects by priority research themes



Total 44 projects





National Centre of  
Excellence in Desalination  
AUSTRALIA

# Concentrate Minimization/ZLD Research Projects

# Concentrate minimization

University of New South Wales

Submerged hollow fiber membrane distillation with transverse mechanical shear

Victoria University

RO brine minimization with membrane distillation crystallization

University of Queensland

Hi recovery ceramic membrane distillation

Curtin University

Vibratory shear membrane technology to maximize recovery

# Concentrate minimization

University of Wollongong

Extraction of water and minerals from coal seam gas produced water to reduce volume

Victoria University

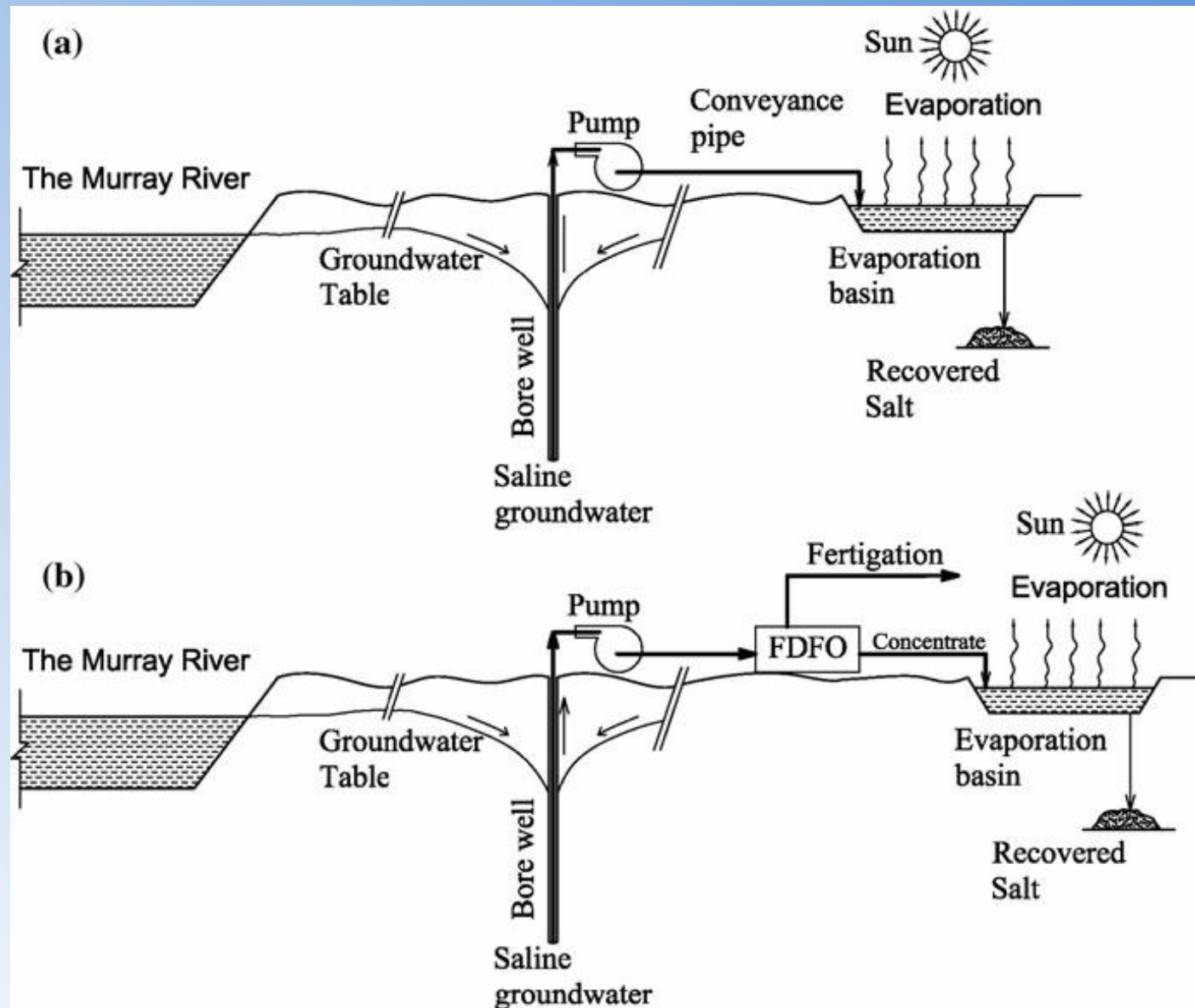
Silica removal from groundwater to maximize RO recovery

University of Technology-Sydney

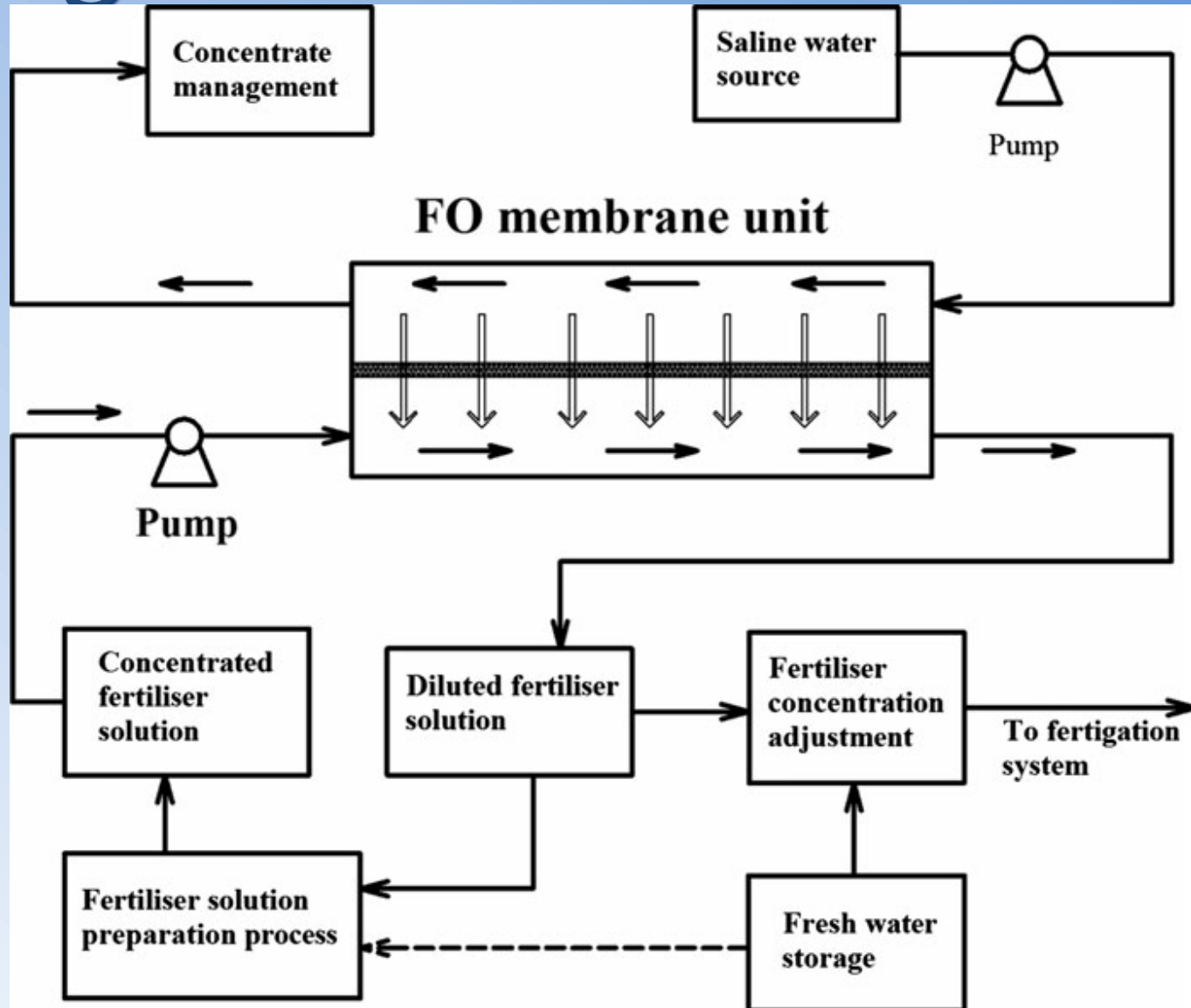
Fertigation with FO to reduce Salt Interception Scheme BW volume



# SIS scheme



# Fertigation





National Centre of  
Excellence in Desalination  
AUSTRALIA

# Desal and Green Energy Research Projects





University of South Australia  
SA Water Centre for Water Management and  
Reuse

Water Corporation

WA Department of Water

Industry Partner LT Green

- Novel CDI technology improves efficiency
- Full scale plant will:
  - provide drinking water for remote communities
  - use photovoltaic renewable energy

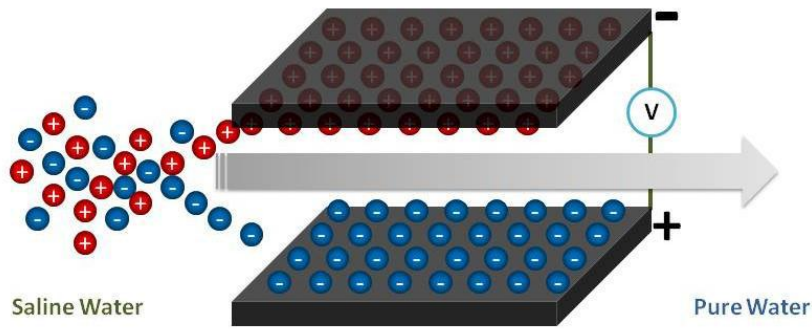
2 projects:

Graphene electrodes

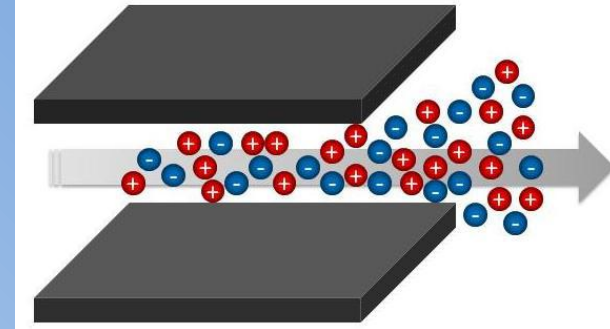
Mobile pilot study on remote site

# Capacitive Deionization (CDI)

Deionization



Regeneration



## Advantages:

- ✓ Low energy consumption;
- ✓ Easy regeneration of electrodes;
- ✓ Low maintenance requirements;
- ✓ Low secondary pollution;

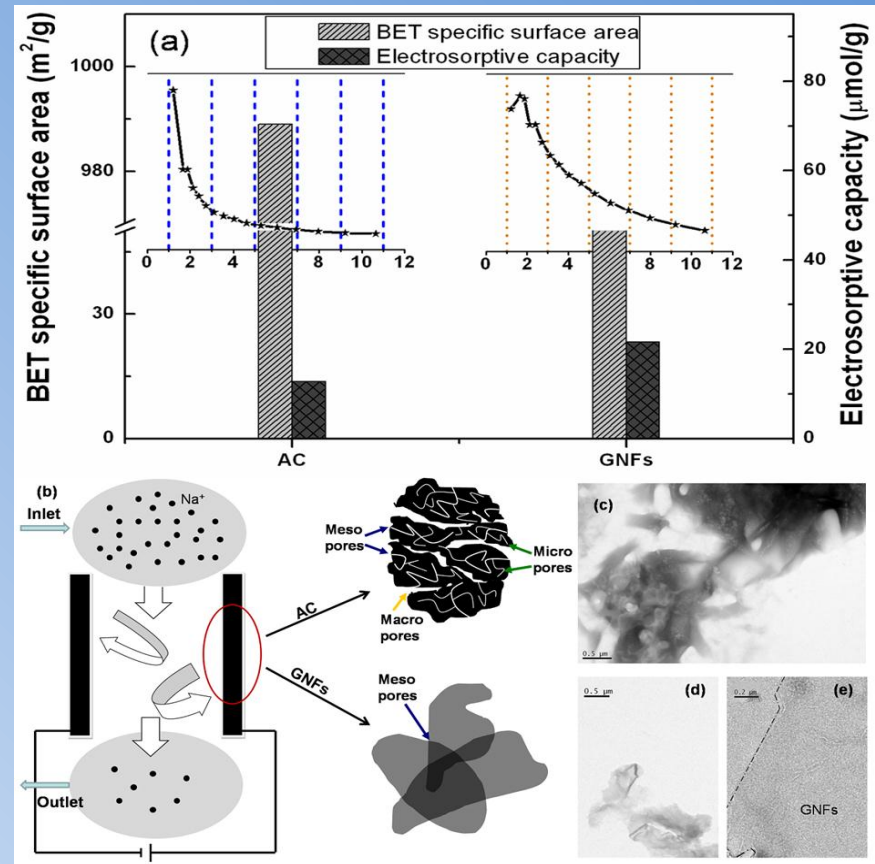
Electrode materials are the most critical component of the CDI technology

*Different carbon materials with porous structure*



# Graphene as CDI electrodes

- ◆ GNF(222 m<sup>2</sup>/g) has electrosorptive capacity of 23.18 μmol/g
- ◆ AC (989 m<sup>2</sup>/g) has electrosorptive capacity of 13.73 μmol/g
- ◆ GNFs have an interlayered structure which is more accessible for ions
- ◆ AC has a large fraction of inaccessible small micropores.



(Li and Zou et al Environ. Sci. Technol., 2010)









# Solar Energy Membrane Distillation for Remote Community

Great Victoria Desert, WA



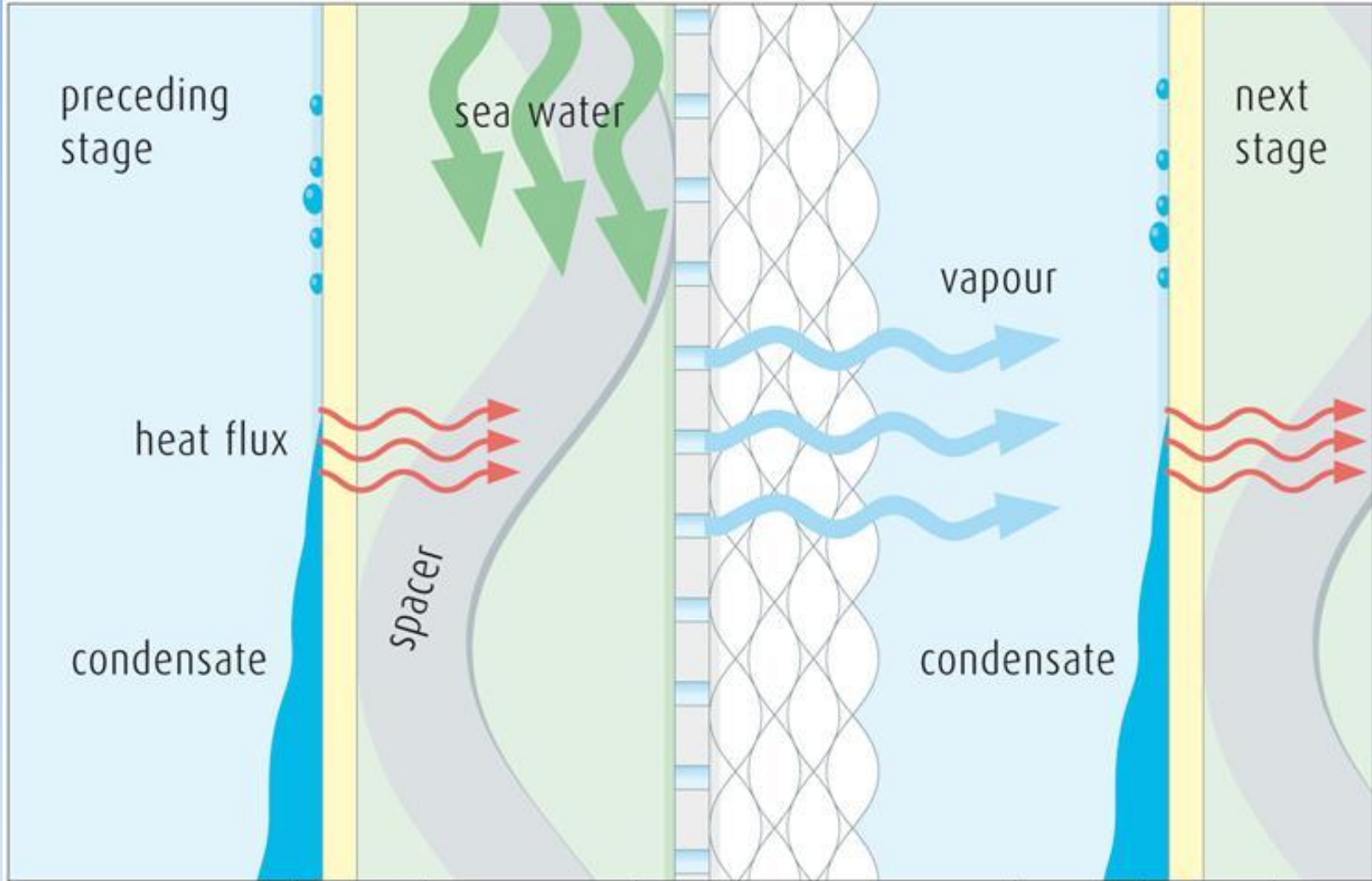


Image:  
memSYS

Dimension $\mu\text{m}$	25	1000	25	200	4000	25	
Function	heat transfer surface	sea water channel with spacer	phase separation membrane		vapour channel	heat transfer surface	
			hydrophobic layer	fiber tissue			
Material	PP		PTFE	PP		PP	





# Tjuntjuntjara







Industrial waste  
heat driven  
multi-effect  
distillation

University of Western Australia

CSIRO

Pilbara Cities Office

Water Corporation

WA Dept of Water

- Hot brackish groundwater in WA at depth
- Currently used for pool heating in Perth
- Large reserves:
  - beneath Perth (3 km)
  - the Pilbara – mining area of WA
- Potential for commercial desalination



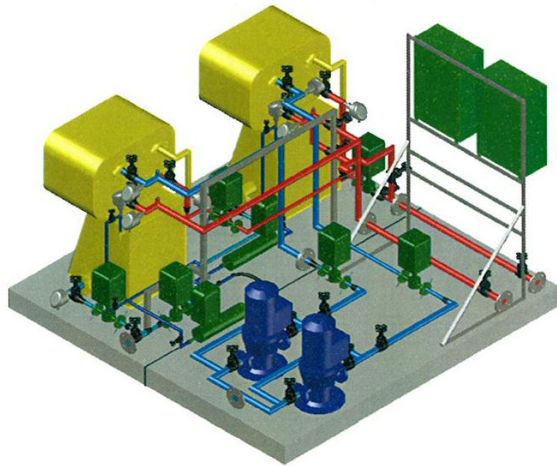
# University of Western Australia

## WA Geothermal Centre of Excellence

### Industry Partner (alumina refinery)

- Novel MED technology
- Improves MED efficiency by 30%
- Uses waste heat from the refining process
- Full scale plant will:
  - provide recycled water for the refinery
  - reduce fresh water demand
  - reduce tailings water balance

Pilot plant being developed for testing at Rockingham Pilot Test Facility before being relocated to site south of Perth.







Geothermal Energy, Multi Effect  
Distillation and Reverse Osmosis



# Other projects of interest

- ◆ Desal opportunities in Australian Agriculture
- ◆ Public perception of desalination
- ◆ Analysis of project delivery methodologies
- ◆ Biofouling  
control/prevention/additives/membrane surface  
modification...
- ◆ Hot standby management
- ◆ Environmental impacts
- ◆ Smart materials for corrosion control
- ◆ ...

# Sundrop Farms – Growing Tomatoes from Seawater and Sunshine





# Sundrop Farms, Port Augusta, South Australia

- Hypersaline ground water used as feed
- Source: Spencer Gulf
- Approx 57 ppt (normal seawater 37 ppt)
- Parabolic solar collector
- Steam for power and desalination
- Multi stage flash distillation for hydroponics
- Tomatoes, capsicums and cucumbers grown
- Sold in Adelaide markets
- \$A30m expansion approved
- 60 new jobs will be created

**(NOTE THIS IS NOT AN NCEDA PROJECT).**







Nathan Kent

PRODUCT/ VARIETY	
PACKED ON	

GROWN /PACKED BY:  
PRODUCE OF AUSTRALIA

COUNT	
NETT WEIGHT	



# International collaboration





# International collaboration

## 2011 青岛国际海水淡化与水再利用大会 2011 Qingdao International Conference on Desalination and Water Reuse



主办单位：中国科学技术协会  
水利部  
国家海洋局  
青岛市人民政府

Sponsors: China Association for Science and Technology

Ministry of Water Resources  
Registration  
People's





# International Workshops in Australia

## Why Subsurface Intakes?

Acts as part of the pretreatment system  
Reduces environmental impacts  
-no impingement and entrainment  
-reduced solid waste disposal (marine debris)  
Reduces long-term operating costs  
-less "in plant" pretreatment operations  
-less chemical usage  
-reduced maintenance costs  
Reduces energy consumption  
Increased reliability

Adelaide Intakes and Outfalls  
Workshop May 2012

# Desal Discovery Centre







# Desal Discovery Centre



National Centre of  
Excellence in Desalination  
AUSTRALIA





# Desal Discovery Centre



National Centre of  
Excellence in Desalination  
AUSTRALIA





National Centre of  
Excellence in Desalination  
Australia

**THANK YOU**

[www.desalination.edu.au](http://www.desalination.edu.au)

David Furukawa, CSO