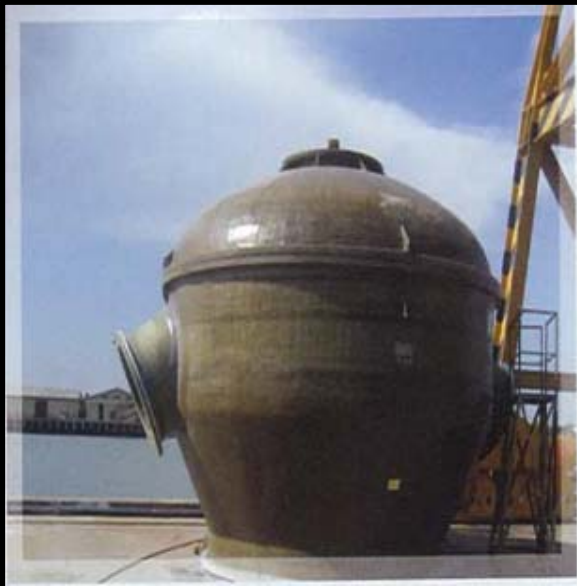


**ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS '08
~ SYDNEY DIVISION**



**RPC TECHNOLOGIES RECEIVES A "HIGHLY COMMENDED" AWARD
FOR THE GOLD COAST DESALINATION GRP RISERS (INTAKE AND DISCHARGE)**

Engineers Australia's national Engineering Excellence Awards program provides an opportunity to promote and publicly celebrate excellence of engineering achievement at local, national and international levels.

The Engineering Team from RPC Technologies worked in conjunction with other Engineers (from SKM, Halcrow and John Holland) in determining a practical solution to a tight programme and tough design criteria and had earlier submitted the Gold Coast Desalination GRP Risers (intake and Discharge) as one of the categories for an award. The GRP Intake and Discharge Risers are 2 meters in diameter constructed from Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) which will feed directly into the sub-sea intake and discharge tunnels which will provide flow to and from the Tugun Desalination Plant currently under construction. The GRP risers are installed in a vertical bore drilled to over 40 metres below the ocean floor. GRP was selected due to its corrosion resistance and structural capacity to withstand the construction and operating loads whilst being light enough to install in one piece. The risers were fitted with several safety features which would seal the units during installation to shield construction workers in the tunnels below from the surrounding marine environment. The GRP risers require no ongoing maintenance other than periodic cleaning and can be closed off at any time to enable tunnel maintenance.

This is the first time a composite GRP marine riser has been developed in Australia.

RPC Technologies Pty Ltd in conjunction with joint entrants Halcrow Pacific, Sinclair Knight Merz, John Holland Group (Tunnelling Division) were presented with the 2008 Engineering for Regional Communities Highly Commended Award.