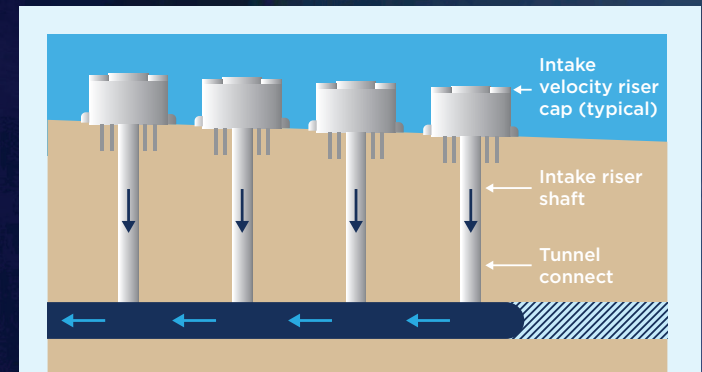


Seawater intake and outfall

The Sydney Desalination Plant makes high quality drinking water from seawater.

The first step of the process starts here...

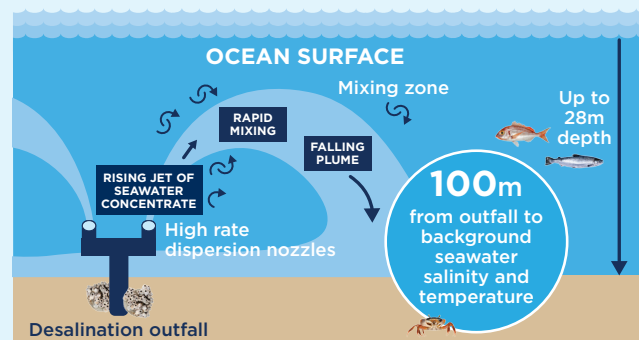


Intake

Millions of litres of seawater are drawn in from the Tasman Sea each day through four intake pipes and a 2.5km long tunnel. The pipes are on the sea floor about 300 metres offshore at a depth of 25 metres.

The water moves through the intake and along the tunnel slowly, allowing local marine life to swim in and out.

Once the seawater arrives at the Plant, it passes through a rotating screen (drum screen) so large particles such as seaweed or shells can be removed before it's pumped into the pre-treatment area.



Outfall

About 60 per cent of the water used during the desalination process is returned to the ocean through an outlet tunnel and specially-designed dispersion nozzles.

These nozzles make sure the water, which is twice as salty as seawater, quickly returns to background seawater salinity and temperature, avoiding any impact to the local marine environment.