



## **Media release**

**13 May 2011**

### **Fortescue Metals Group recognised for its innovative approach to water management**

Fortescue Metals Group, one of Australia's leading iron ore mining companies, has been recognised for its approach to groundwater management. The Group has been awarded the Australian Water Association's (AWA) national award for Infrastructure Project Innovation for its Cloudbreak Managed Aquifer Recharge Scheme at Cloudbreak mine, one of the largest mines of its type in the Pilbara region.

The scheme is one of the largest and most complex managed aquifer recharge schemes in Australia, with a capacity for 25 gigalitres of water a year. The scheme not only fulfils the multiple water management needs of the mining activities, but also assists in minimising impacts on the environmentally and culturally valuable Fortescue Marshes.

Awarded the prize at the Ozwater'11 conference and exhibition this week, Doug Brown, Manager Water at Fortescue Metals Group said: "The team is delighted to win such a prestigious award. It is an honour to be recognised by the Australian water sector for the work that has been achieved by this scheme. Effective management of groundwater is both integral to the success of the mining operation and critical to social and environmental sustainability."

Tom Mollenkopf, CEO of the Australian Water Association, said: "The AWA Infrastructure Project Innovation Award recognises significant and innovative infrastructure projects and initiatives within the water industry. The Cloudbreak MAR Scheme is an excellent example of an innovative project that addresses both operational and sustainability needs. The innovations and experiences of this project are likely to be picked up by other sectors in years to come."

The annual AWA national awards celebrate and promote the outstanding work achieved by individuals and organisations in the water sector. The AWA Infrastructure Project Innovation award is sponsored by aurecon.



For more information about the AWA national awards program go to [www.awa.asn.au/awards](http://www.awa.asn.au/awards).

**-ENDS-**

For further information, images or interview requests please contact Helen Ketton, AWA Communications Manager, on 02 9467 8416 / 0401 806 277

### **Notes to Editors**

- AWA is Australia's leading membership association for water professionals and organisations. Independent and not for profit AWA is the peak body supporting the Australian water sector in the delivery of effective and sustainable water management practices.