

Pipeline Rehabilitation for Thiess Degremont Victorian Desalination Project, October 2013

Phillips Agribusiness formed part of the Ecology Australia team which was appointed as Rehabilitation Consultants to the construction of the Victorian Desalination Plant. At the commencement of the Project early in 2010, the Rehabilitation Consultants inspected and mapped the pipeline route according to major environmental divisions, principally climate, landform and soils. Seven Rehabilitation Treatment Zones (RT Zone) were identified, the divisions of which were established through inspection and reference to soil survey data developed by DPI consultants¹.

Each of the RT Zones was described according to environmental feature characteristics, the proposed excavation method and the recommended reinstatement procedure. This information was then transferred to each property owner's Reinstatement Plan which described existing condition of infrastructure, environmental conditions and the specification for rehabilitation procedure.

The Rehabilitation Consultant conducted frequent visits to the project during the construction and rehabilitation phases, often weekly. Observations of each visit were recorded, and the outcomes presented in a monthly report to the Project. The content included a description of rehabilitation activity, issues arising, landholder complaints and statement of progress.

Rehabilitation of the total easement was largely complete by the end of September 2013. Following the final inspection of the route by the Rehabilitation Consultant a brief report on each property was prepared commenting on rehabilitation condition, whether the work had been completed satisfactorily and if further maintenance work is required. The contingency items that were not able to be completed are subject to a maintenance contract effective for a further two year period.

¹ Soils & Landforms of West Gippsland: Sargeant & Imhoff 2003