

Case Study

Ausform Pty Ltd – Victorian Desalination Project

Bendigo-based concrete construction firm Ausform Pty Ltd is among hundreds of Victorian companies to have won contracts with the Victorian Desalination Project, leading to ongoing work and the creation of additional jobs.

Ausform Pty Ltd was awarded the contract – initially worth around \$7 million and now grown to approximately \$20 million - to supply structural concrete works to the \$3.5 billion project.

ICN consultant Chris Reilly nominated Ausform Pty Ltd as a Victorian supplier capable of building the concrete water retaining structures that would transfer seawater around the plant site. Chris Reilly was seconded to work with the procurement team at Thiess Degrémont – AquaSure’s design and construction contractor for the Victorian Desalination Project - to identify local capability and maximise the engagement of local businesses.

ICN Loddon Mallee Regional Manager Noel Morton, who introduced Ausform Pty Ltd to Chris, said that he had worked with the company previously and knew that they would meet the project requirements:

“Ausform Pty Ltd has a proven track record contributing to the successful delivery of major projects throughout the Loddon Mallee region, including the Bendigo Water Treatment Plant, Solar Systems’ Bridgewater facility, Bendigo Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Koorlong (Mildura) Wastewater Treatment Plant,” said Noel.

As a result of the contract, Ausform Pty Ltd has engaged more than 30 additional employees. Ausform Pty Ltd Projects Engineer Daniel Ogle said that adding such a large and well-known project to the company’s portfolio of work will help showcase their expertise and hopefully lead to further opportunities:

“The Victorian Desalination Project has provided our business with the opportunity to further develop our resource base, and employ experienced tradespeople to deliver our Projects moving forward,” said Mr Ogle. “Our name, profile and capability are now well known on the Project and we have received many positive reports regarding our performance so far. We have developed relationships with many Thiess Degrémont Supervisors, Engineers and Managers since we began on the Project more than 12 months ago – all of these people will move onto new and exciting infrastructure Projects in years to come, and I am sure that our contribution on this Project will hold us in good stead for future opportunities.”

Victorian suppliers have been engaged for more than two thirds of the contracts awarded to date as part of the Victorian Desalination Project.

While seconded to the project ICN's Chris Reilly helped identify many of these competitive, quality suppliers. Local companies to have been engaged in the project include:

- **Tyco Water** - awarded a \$150 million contract to supply 84 kilometres of pipeline. The pipeline was manufactured in Somerton, creating around 50 new jobs while securing 50 existing jobs.
- **Fytogreen** - secured a \$4.3 million contract to design, install and maintain a landscaped, living green roof on top of the desalination plant.
- **Olex** - awarded a \$43 million contract to supply power cable.
- **Ortech Industries** - awarded a \$7 million contract to manufacture the steel beam system and acoustic ceiling panels that form the desalination plant's living, green roof, resulting in the recruitment of 10 new staff.