

CASE STUDY

Tankweld
Engineering



CATEGORY:
Infrastructure

LOCATION:
Carrum Downs, Victoria

Powerful Partnership Works A Treat

Tankweld Engineering's long-standing relationship with BlueScope Distribution worked a treat for the company when it went to work on Melbourne Water's Eastern Treatment Plant upgrade.

When Tankweld Engineering in Hallam, Victoria, was selected to design, fabricate and install walkways, stairways and platforms during a major upgrade to Melbourne Water's sewerage treatment plant at Carrum Downs, south east of Melbourne, the company was naturally pleased to be involved in a project of such importance.

Handling 40 per cent of Melbourne's sewage and previously treating recycled water to Class C quality, the \$380 million upgrade to tertiary treatment has meant the facility can now produce 100 billion litres of high quality recycled water each year for a broad range of non-potable applications.

South East Water and Melbourne Water have identified projects that will use a further 7 billion litres of recycled water from the plant following the upgrade, with a range of projects being investigated which will use up to 40 billion litres each year over the next 30 years.

Transforming the plant into one of the most sophisticated facilities of its kind in the world,

STEEL EFFICIENCY
REVIEW™

“*Their professionalism and experience make them a dream client for BlueScope Distribution, with both companies’ dedication to quality and excellence making us a powerful partnership on any project.*”

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the upgrade has also meant a dramatic improvement in the quality of treated water discharged into Bass Strait and significant benefits for the marine environment.

At the time they were awarded the contract, however, it quite simply meant Tankweld Engineering faced a mammoth task and Tankweld’s Purchaser Lindsay Knowles knew it was time to call BlueScope Distribution.

The company’s two-year contract to provide safety access structures across the new tertiary treatment facilities, which comprise seven buildings spread over an area of about six hectares within the Eastern Treatment Plant, was, in Lindsay’s words “a BIG project”.

“It was very extensive, with a lot of walkways, platforms and handrails - mainly structural work,” he said of Tankweld’s work on the site, which began in late 2010. “There was a huge amount of tonnage involved and

I naturally turned to BlueScope Distribution to supply it all.”

Having worked on numerous projects for Tankweld Engineering over the years, Lindsay said the BlueScope Distribution team made it easy as they “know the drill” - quite literally.

“The team over at the Melbourne branch in Clayton South really went the extra mile as always, preparing a lot of the steel for us, drilling holes and cutting a lot of the materials, which certainly saved us a lot of time.

“We always receive an excellent standard of service from BlueScope Distribution and this was no different,” he continued. “I just keyed up the orders and sent them over and BlueScope Distribution delivered brilliantly as usual.”

While relatively small in size, currently employing around eighteen staff, Tankweld Engineering is big on delivering for clients which is why Lindsay enjoys dealing with BlueScope Distribution.

“We may not be the biggest company, but you wouldn’t know that from BlueScope Distribution’s response,” Lindsay said. “I regularly deal with Shan Senn and Pauline Moon at the Melbourne branch and they’re always on the ball for us, making even our smallest request a big priority.

“BlueScope Distribution is always my first call when I need any material.”

Shan Senn, BlueScope Distribution’s Account Manager Vic/Tas, said his team was equally pleased to have worked with Tankweld Engineering on the important project.

“Utilising the Steel Efficiency Review™ as a tool to continuously improve our unique offer, we’ve been fortunate to deal with Tankweld Engineering on many projects over the years, so we know they’re one of those great Aussie companies that puts enormous store in a job well done; a fact which is reflected in their long and successful history,” he said.

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While most recently having helped Melbourne’s improved recycled water to flow, Tankweld’s history began nearly 60 years ago in the field of liquid storage when the company established operations for the design, fabrication, testing, installation and repair of a variety of storage tanks ranging in volume from 500 litres to 160,000 litres.

“We supply a range of standard tank designs in a variety of shapes, sizes and volumes, however most clients have specialist needs and our in-house engineering team are experts when it comes to providing cost-efficient, custom-made solutions,” Lindsay said.

“Our company directors Stan Sliwinski and Jeff Harley share over 50 years combined engineering experience in the water, sewerage, pulp, paper, mining and petrochemical industries, which is invaluable in delivering innovative and effective solutions for our clients.”

Tankweld designs and constructs tanks in accordance with Australian Standards carbon and AS1940, while also offering alternative standards if circumstances require. Although often fabricated with AS3678 steel, Tankweld also offers extensive experience in stainless steel fabrication plus the expertise to offer flexibility to clients at all stages of design and fabrication.

In more recent times, while continuing to provide outstanding tank expertise and production, Tankweld has expanded its activities to achieve significant success in a number of diverse areas for a client base ranging from small companies to government bodies and including power generation, mining and public utilities sectors.

A significant part of Tankweld’s current business activities is in the area of on-site construction and maintenance. The company offers extensive experience in the fabrication and site installation of high pressure piping to AS4041, in both carbon steel and stainless steel, along with mechanical installation and commissioning of plant and equipment including piping systems, vessels, generator sets and associated steelwork.

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