

# Olympic Dam Mine Tails Disposal Upgrade Project



## Location

Roxby Downs, South Australia

## Client

BHP Billiton

## Commencement Date

June 2010

## Completion Date

January 2011

## Contract Value

\$4.8 million

**BMD Constructions established a range of innovative methods for pipe handling and placement throughout this project, resulting in delivery of the project on schedule and to budget.**

## Overview

Olympic Dam is an extremely large iron oxide copper gold deposit producing copper, uranium, gold and silver. The site hosts an underground mine as well as an integrated metallurgical processing plant. The site is the fourth largest copper deposit and the largest known single deposit of uranium in the world, though uranium represents only a minority of the mine's total revenue.

## Project Scope

The project involved the upgrade and placement of concrete pipe supports (plinths) and 15km of 400 dia HDPE lined steel pipe.

All staff involved in lifting using plant such as riggers or cranes required competency testing prior to completing work on the site. All staff were also given 4x4 training, given the remoteness of the site.

Safety and the minimisation of environmental impacts were of the highest priority to the client, and were maintained by BMD's existing safety and environmental management systems.

BMD's existing quality assurance methods were also sufficient to ensure the toxic uranium effluent carried by the pipes was contained.

## Outcomes

Project Manager, John Sheens awards with BHP Billiton Safety Award for works on this site.

To combat pipe supports sinking into the wet clay, cement stabilised sand was used, and the solution has since been adopted by the client at other sites.

Vac lifts were frequently used in place of conventional cranes, resulting in less labour and therefore, less cost to the client.

Established an efficient combined use of cranes and vac lifts.