



26 February 2010

THIESS DEGRÉMONT WELCOMES LOCALS TO WORKFORCE

A strong contingent of locals is among the workforce building Victoria's new desalination plant.

Design and construction contractor for the project, Thiess Degrémont, advertised labour and trade jobs for the first time in November last year.

An unprecedented 14,500 applications were received, with strong interest from locals. Thiess Degrémont Project Director, Greg Miller, said the company was overwhelmed with the response.

"I've said it before - if you work in construction, this is the project to be on," said Mr Miller. "I'm particularly pleased that so many locals want to join us and be part of it."

Workforce recruitment is now well underway and the first of the 1200 workers needed on the plant site have now started work.

Among them is Peter Cargill, born and bred in Wonthaggi. Peter recently accepted a job on the project as a formworker, and is now out on site putting his carpentry skills to work, building the desalination plant's structural framework.

Peter was thrilled to secure employment on the project after spending the last two years sub-contracting. "It's only been a couple of days, but I reckon I've made a good choice," said Peter. "I'm loving being on site and I'm working with some great blokes. Hopefully the experience on this job will lead to more opportunities in the future."

After five years working overseas, missing family and friends, well-known Wonthaggi local Peter Liddle now works ten minutes up the road as site supervisor, bringing to the project his extensive experience in materials co-ordination and logistics. He is responsible for ensuring that all equipment and supplies delivered to the plant site are accounted for and available when needed on different areas of the site.

"The main attraction with this job was the opportunity to spend much more time at home," Peter said. "But I am also really enjoying the challenge that the project presents."

Construction is forging ahead on the desalination plant site, with earthworks nearing completion, foundations well underway and structural steel on the horizon. But Greg Miller said the hard work was just beginning.

“We’re on schedule but we’ve got a lot to do to get this project delivered,” said Mr Miller. “We need people with the right skills, experience and attitude who are committed to working to get this job done on time, and done properly.”

Thiess Degrémont will continue interviewing, with recruitment ramping until the workforce reaches its peak around November this year.

Mr Miller thanked those that have applied for jobs to date and said the company was working its way through the applications.

“Processing so many applications takes time, so we’re asking people to bear with us. You will be notified by email if your application has been unsuccessful. If you haven’t heard anything, you can assume you are still being considered for a job, even if some time has passed since you submitted your application.”

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Media enquiries

Serena Middleton
Thiess Degrémont Stakeholder Relations Manager
T: 0419 114 022
E: smiddleton@thiessdegrement.com.au

About Thiess Degrémont

Thiess Degrémont is the design and construction contractor for the \$3.5 billion Victorian Desalination Project. The biggest infrastructure project in the state’s history will deliver Australia’s largest desalination plant by the end of December 2011, securing a source of water for Melbourne and regional communities, independent of rainfall.

Thiess Degrémont is a joint venture between Thiess, one of Australia's largest and most trusted construction and services companies, and Degrémont, a world leader in reverse-osmosis desalination technology.