

VICTORIAN DESALINATION PROJECT

MEDIA RELEASE



16 September 2010

SOMERVILLE COMPANY AWARDED \$4.3 MILLION GREEN ROOF CONTRACT FOR VICTORIAN DESALINATION PROJECT

Thiess Degrémont has awarded a \$4.3 million contract to Fytogreen from Somerville to supply the biggest green roof in Australia for the Victorian Desalination Project.

Fytogreen will install about 98,000 indigenous ground covers, tussocks and shrubs over a roof area spanning more than 26,000 m².

The green roof will form part of the desalination plant's sophisticated roof system, designed to blend the plant into the landscape, provide acoustic protection, corrosion resistance, thermal control and reduced maintenance.

Thiess Degrémont, AquaSure's design and construction contractor for the Victorian Desalination Project, awarded the contract to Fytogreen after a competitive tender process, which included interstate and international competition.

Fytogreen was established in 2002 and has already created more than 2 million square metres of roof gardens around the world. Managing Director Geoff Heard said he was proud to be adding Australia's biggest desalination plant to the company's resume.

"This is one of the biggest projects we've ever undertaken and it's certainly one of the most challenging," said Mr Heard. "An innovative solution was needed for such a large roof area in a windy, coastal environment."

"We've been growing a prototype roof in Gippsland since 2009, testing different species and coming up with the ideal blend of indigenous species that will thrive in the local area."

"Victoria's new desalination plant will be covered with a living tapestry of indigenous plants that reflect the changing seasons and environment."

The green roof will also form an important part of the landscape architecture for the project.

The desalination plant site will become a new coastal park and one of the largest ecological restoration projects in Victoria's history, complete with wetlands, coastal and swampy woodlands, and new habitat for local fauna.

Fytogreen will source the bulk of the plants, materials and supplies for the green roof locally as well as partnering with several local landscape contractors to complete the contract.

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Media enquiries

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About AquaSure

AquaSure has been contracted by the Victorian Government to deliver the \$3.5 billion Victorian Desalination Project. AquaSure brings together leaders in the fields of infrastructure design, construction, and finance.

About Thiess Degrémont

Thiess Degrémont is AquaSure's design and construct contractor, responsible for delivering Australia's largest desalination plant by the end of December 2011. 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.