

MAYFIELD FORMER NEWCASTLE STEELWORKS



GROUNDWATER BARRIER WALL



Client: Regional Management Land Corporation
Consultant: URS/Douglas Partners

Specialist Contractor: Menard Bachy Pty Ltd

THE PROJECT

In 2007 Menard Bachy successfully installed the world's deepest groundwater barrier wall using a continuous open trench method at the former Newcastle Steelworks site. Menard Bachy were engaged by Regional Land Management Corporation (RLMC) to design and construct the barrier wall to reduce the migration of contaminated groundwater to the adjacent Hunter River, as part of the remediation strategy for the site.

WORK DESCRIPTION

Over the past 130 years the site, located on the south bank of the Hunter River in Mayfield, has housed copper smelters, steelworks, coke ovens, gas holders and ancillary operations with steelworks waste (slag) used to fill majority of the site.

The barrier wall was a key element of the proposed remediation strategy by forming an up-gradient barrier diverting groundwater flow away from the most heavily contaminated areas of the site.

On completion of the works the wall was 1.5km long and reached depths between 30 and 50m. which

MENARD BACHY'S ROLE

Menard Bachy was chosen as the specialist contractor to carry out the design and construction of the barrier wall based on successful applications nationally and overseas.

The works included:

- Mix design, quality control systems, laboratory and in-situ testing
- Preparation of the 37Ha site, including access roads, contaminated excavated soil management and environmental controls.
- Utilizing specialized excavation equipment to achieve trenches of up to 50m in depth.

On successfully completing the works in 2007, Menard Bachy received the 2007 Engineering Excellence Award for their involvement in the remediation of the former steel works site.

This success has seen an increased in the application of this technology as an economical method in solving groundwater movement across a number of different locations.

SYDNEY

13-15 Lyonpark Road, Macquarie Park NSW 2113
Tel: 61 2 9491 7100 Fax: 61 2 9491 7111

BRISBANE

3 Harvton Street, Stafford QLD 4053
Tel: 61 7 3354 9100 Fax: 61 7 3354 9111

MELBOURNE

41 Boundary Road, North Melb. VIC 3051
Tel: 61 3 9321 1333 Fax: 61 3 9326 8996

AUCKLAND

PO Box 72734, Papakura, Auckland NZ
Tel: 64 9 236 3385 Fax: 64 9 236 3385