



# COMDAIN INFRASTRUCTURE

## The Living Murray Hattah Lakes Environmental Flows Project– March 2012 to Nov 2012

In late 2011, Comdain Infrastructure was awarded the Contract for the Multi-Million Dollar Living Murray Hattah Lakes Environmental Flows Project. Partner agencies involved in this project include the Murray Darling Basin Authority, Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA), Department of Sustainability and Environment, Parks Victoria and Goulburn Murray Water. The project involved installation of a permanent pumping station, with seven pumps capable of pumping 1667 L/s each from the Murray River to more than 20 wetlands within the Hattah Lakes National Park. 12 of these wetlands are listed as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

The construction will also encompass four new regulators and the upgrade of an existing structure, discharge and dissipater structures. In addition, three levee banks will be built to hold environmental water within the lakes and surrounding floodplain.

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These flood enhancement works are designed to restore and maintain the health of this once natural wetlands and surrounding floodplain vegetation. The introduction of more regular flows will help to provide a habitat for the waterbirds, fish, frogs, turtles and other native wildlife that depend on them to survive.

A large component of the project including the construction of three levee banks is being performed by Comdain Infrastructure’s construction and earthworks crews. Due to the scope of the works a large amount of equipment is required, and Comdain Infrastructure has been using the CAT Rental Store

since the beginning of the project to get these works done. The Cat Rental Store has continued to work with Comdain Infrastructure providing equipment solutions right across the Caterpillar earthmoving, Accugrade machine control and general equipment range.

Comdain Infrastructure’s Construction Manager, Danny Moon, is responsible for overseeing the project and sourcing large amounts of equipment. Danny has worked closely with The Cat Rental Store staff to make sure he has the gear he needs for the job, when he needs it. “Cat Rental has been able to respond to our requirements and get us the equipment we needed, when we need it. This has allowed us to respond quickly to changes in the environment, in particular rain, and the potential of flood inundation while progressing works in extremely challenging site conditions.” said Danny.

“We don’t have time to be waiting on other service providers that can’t supply equipment when we need it, or that is not sufficient for the task. It is critical that the





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equipment provided is well maintained and that it complies with all operational, health and safety regulations.”

“The Cat Rental product has been excellent, and in many cases, new or near new equipment has been supplied. In the event of a breakdown or at servicing intervals, they’ve responded quickly and provided service technicians from either the Bendigo CAT Rental branch or the closer William Adams Branch at Mildura.”

The CAT Rental equipment satisfies Comdain Infrastructure’s technological specifications by featuring machine control and guidance systems.

“We have numerous machines onsite. Cat Rental has supplied, maintained and given tech support for GPS systems on several pieces of plant including graders, excavators, and compactors. Dealing with the one company to maintain our equipment makes it more efficient and easier for us to focus on the job on hand,” explained Danny.

The equipment is spread across a 30km long site through environmentally and culturally sensitive national park and maintained by a team of CAT Rental and William Adams service technicians. Routine maintenance and servicing, co-ordinated from the Bendigo Cat Rental Branch, involves close planning and scheduling with the Comdain Infrastructure team to ensure machines are being attended to as required, minimising any downtime. Four wheel drive service vehicles, supplied by Cat Rental also make it possible to access equipment on the site.

The Cat Rental Store continues to provide equipment to the Living Murray Hattah Lakes Environmental Flows Project and has forged a strong relationship with Comdain Infrastructure.

