

DERWENT VALLEY Track Works

Date: Apr 2023 to Feb 2024

Principal: TasRail

Project Value: \$3.2M

TASK

TasRail required rerail and resleepering of over 7km of track on the Derwent Valley line. This was to occur at 6 distinct sections between Bridgewater and Boyer. As part of the works, the track required the replacement of ballast as well as the tamping of each of the sections of track. Minor other works were required including the installation of safety signage and public crossings.

In completing the track works, Shaw was responsible for welding out (free and stress welding), weld testing, geometric validation and track handback.

CHALLENGES

The works were completed over numerous sections of track which had limited access requirements. In order to complete much of the works, Shaw's new Hi Rail Excavator and ballast bin fleet were essential to materials management on site as access was only through the rail corridor. This required efficient management of equipment at the worksite as well as between the access points not only for materials provision but also to maintain daily train movements.

Due to the limited access areas, laydown areas were carefully managed. Rail, sleepers and excess ballast were imported and sent to site, with the track broken down and packaged ready for transport back to TasRail for their recycling. Accordingly truck and excavator movements were carefully managed to maintain the operability of these sites.

One of the package areas was the subject of an eagle nesting site. The confluence of award and project timeframe meant that the site orders needed to be rearranged to avoid negatively impacting on the eagle. Despite the inconvenience, Shaw was able to enact strategies to manage this issue within the project timeframe.

OUTCOMES

Shaw was able to complete the works without delays to trains and to the requisite, high TasRail quality requirements. Further value to the project outcomes was achieved by completing the works earlier than the contract timeframe securing track access.

