

Bell Bay Trackworks

Date: 2024 - 2025

Principal: TasRail

Project Value: \$900k

TASK

TasRail engaged Shaw to complete trackworks on the Bell Bay line in 2 sections over 2,800m. The trackworks centred around the replacement of sleepers, but also included was the complete renewal and replacement of the fouled ballast section. 100m of new rail, sleepers, ballast and drainage were all completed over a weekend shutdown. Removal of defective welds and mechanical joints including ballasting operations were also part of the scope of work.

CHALLENGES

A key challenge for the project was the replacement of the rail and sleepers on the bridge across the East Tamar Highway. Rightly, TasRail was particularly concerned with the potential for ballast to fall from the bridge onto cars and people below. Shaw developed multiple mitigations for this hazard including:

- Innovating solid barriers attached to the side of the bridge to stop ballast from falling below
- Implementing a traffic management scheme on the East Tamar Highway stopping traffic during barrier installation
- Amending the construction technique such that the existing track was deconstructed and new panel constructed away from the bridge to minimise the opportunity for ballast to fall

Ultimately, Shaw was able to complete these works without disruption to the East Tamar Highway while protecting workers from the Working at Height high risk and damage to the bridge.

It is not a new challenge, however, maintaining the train schedule running and hot works during summer are key issues for TasRail. To maximise the efficiency of trackworks, Shaw instigated a 10 on 4 off evening shift roster which allowed works to be completed in cooler temperatures minimising the risk of fire and heat buckles also maximising train free windows. This meant that the works were completed in the safest most efficient parts of the day without impact to the train schedule.

OUTCOMES

Shaw was able to complete this project maintaining a high level of quality. This is reflected not only in the finished track outputs, but also rising to the challenge of difficult bridge works and working together with the Tasrail production team.

