

# HAY PROCESSING PLANT

BOWMANS, SA

A major fire at the BALCO hay bale processing plant in regional South Australia resulted not only in millions of dollars' worth of damages to the plant but also devastated the surrounding farming community and export markets that relied on the hay to feed their dairy cows. The cause of the fire is suspected to have been caused by overheated machinery which ignited the hay bales.

Once appointed Bay Building Major Projects proceeded with a full demolition of 6670m<sup>2</sup> original building. The team set up temporary fencing and provided site facilities including offices, lunchroom, ablution block, first aid, temporary power, plumbing and dust extraction unit for the onsite staff and trades including a full time Bay Building Services Supervisor and Safety Officer. During demolition numerous cranes were used including one that was required to hold 95 tonnes to move baling equipment. The replacement specialist equipment was ordered from Canada and Europe. This equipment also required specialist electrical engineers to commission. Through the use of interstate plants the client was able to facilitate immediate works until this equipment arrived.

Works took place in stages and involved an extensive number of trades to complete amongst others demolition, civil earthworks, commercial structural steel manufacturers, electrical (including specialist electrical engineers), plumbing, plant hire, amenities fit out (carpenter, plasterers, painting and tiling) and waste removal.

The team refitted one of the sheds with specialist equipment to enable hay bale processing to commence whilst the rebuild took place thereby minimising the loss of income time frame. The next stages involved the rebuild of the grids including site earthworks preparation.

Strong winds, extreme heat, size of the site and equipment being used made the works challenging. The team held daily tool box meetings and all new trades completed thorough inductions. Safety was a number one priority on site and no incidents occurred throughout the entire process.

As key part of regular client communication, the team prepared weekly update reports for all parties involved with full update and photos of works being completed. To assist with the impact to the local community the client placed staff in different plants and our team engaged local trades where ever possible.



COMPLETED HAY PROCESSING PLANT

BBG TEAM: SA Major Projects  
PROJECT TYPE: Restoration of Processing Plant  
PROJECT SIZE: 6670m<sup>2</sup>  
BUILDING TYPE: Industrial Plant  
PROJECT VALUE: \$8.5m



CRANE BEING USED TO REPLACE STRUCTURAL STEEL AND ROOFING