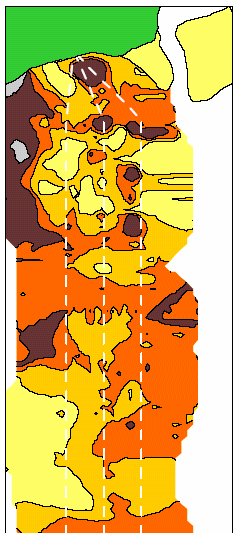
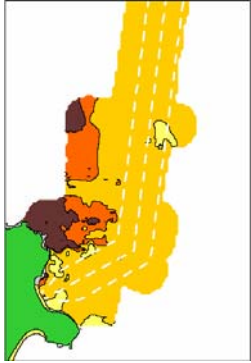


PROJECT DATA

Bass Strait No.2 Fibre-Optic Cable Approvals

CLIENT	Telstra
PROJECT LOCATION	Bass Strait; Inverloch, Victoria, Australia; Stanley, Tasmania, Australia
DATE OF PROJECT	2003 - 2004
SERVICES PROVIDED	Scoping study; environmental risk assessment; environmental management plan; marine field studies.



Hydro Tasmania Consulting managed a number of marine environmental studies for Telstra's BS-2 cable crossing of Bass Strait, culminating in the successful installation of the cable.

The project began with a desktop scoping study to identify the potential risks to the cable and from the cable to assist Telstra in determining a route corridor and method of installation. This considered oceanographic conditions, commercial fishing operations, marine flora and fauna (including whales, dolphins and birds) and marine archaeology.

Hydro Tasmania Consulting then managed additional field studies to assess marine environmental communities along and adjacent to the proposed cable corridor. The data produced by the field studies were also assessed by marine archaeologists. The outcome of this work was a more detailed understanding of environmental and heritage constraints on routing options.

The desktop study also identified the potential for impacts on whales and dolphins. These impacts would not be due to construction operations but could arise from the geotechnical survey that would be undertaken during the design phase of the project. Hydro Tasmania Consulting prepared an Environmental Management Plan for implementation by the geotechnical survey contractors, and the associated EPBC referral.

Hydro Tasmania Consulting then managed post-installation surveys to assess the level of actual impact. This found that impacts were minimal and, in many case, beneficial to the marine environment by providing artificial reef habitat.



Head Office
4 Elizabeth Street
Hobart, Tasmania 7000
GPO Box 355, Hobart
Tasmania 7001, Australia
PHONE 1300 360 441
FAX +61 3 6230 5460
EMAIL
consulting@hydro.com.au
Hydro Tasmania is a business
of the Hydro-Electric Corporation
www.hydrotasmaniiconsulting.com.au