Albany Explosive Ordinance Clearance
Albany Port Authority

BMT JFA developed a detailed analysis of contracts, reconstruction of events and the development of remediation strategies: all this work was tested under cross examination in the Supreme Court.

Brad Williams, CEO Albany Port Authority

During dredging operations at the Port of Albany during 2000/01 numerous items of explosive ordnance (EXO) were recovered. The presence of EXO ultimately led to a legal dispute between the Albany Port Authority (APA) and the Department of Defence (Commonwealth Government) where BMT JFA was engaged to act as expert witness on behalf of the APA. The dispute was settled in mid-2007 at which time BMT JFA’s role was expanded to manage the remediation of the contaminated areas.

The clearance project was undertaken during 2008 and involved the use of a small cutter suction dredge to remove a layer of soft sediments followed by the diver inspection and clearance of the seabed to locate and remove EXO present at the site. The clearance project presented numerous technical challenges and this required the use of specially modified dredging plant.

In this regard, BMT JFA developed a number of innovative solutions to meet the client’s requirements in a potentially high risk environment.

On completion of the works, a project closeout report was prepared containing details of all the works that were completed and in order to demonstrate that the risk of EXO being located at the site has been reduced to the greatest possible extent.

A testament to the success of the project was the selection of the APA as one of four finalists in the 2009 WA State Safety Awards held by Worksafe.

BMT JFA Role
- Developing the project completion strategy
- Preparing and managing the procurement process
- Subsequent management of the clearance works
- Successful project execution despite challenging metocean and seabed conditions
- Project closeout report.

Services & Expertise Provided
- EXO survey and clearance planning and management
- Site investigations
- Expert witness services
- Marine health and safety.

Location
Albany, Western Australia

Date
2002 - 2008