



PROJECT SNAPSHOT

TOXFREE PROVIDES SAFE AMMONIUM NITRATE REMOVAL FOR BHP BILLITON IRON ORE

The issue

BHP Billiton Iron Ore required three ammonium nitrate tanks from the Yarrie Minesite to be vacuumed out and pressure washed. The mine at Yarrie has been decommissioned and the client needed the tank waste removed and cleaned urgently. Ammonium nitrate is an oxidising agent and thus a high level of safety is imperative when working with this substance.

The solution

Toxfree provided experienced operators proficient in working with ammonium nitrate, as well as a fully trained rescue team, lead by a Senior First Aider. The tanks were located 450km from Karratha, contributing an added element of risk to the task. The job was completed in four days despite the presence of a significantly larger amount of waste than originally expected, resulting in 50 tonnes of ammonium nitrate product removed. As works progressed it became apparent that some of the product had crystallized in the tank due to the length of time it had been there, which added another degree of difficulty to the task.



The outcome

The works were completed safely and efficiently, and solved a logistical difficulty for BHP, thereby enabling the decommissioning of the tank farm at the mine site. BHP's Superintendent was confident they chose the right company to complete the task and named Toxfree as the first point of call for any future works.



"Toxfree did an outstanding job on the three emulsion tanks and ponds. I am very impressed with the way Toxfree handled this task out at Yarrie. The team sent out to complete this task demonstrated a very high level of skill and knowledge to complete this task. I was very impressed with the setup of the Go Pro as well, it was great to see inside the tanks when someone is working in them. This also gave me the confidences again that we chose the right company to complete this task."

- Gary Cooper, Drill & Blast Superintendent - BHP Billiton Iron Ore