

PLASSON ELECTROFUSION SADDLES: REDUCING DOWNTIME ON CRITICAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Eungella Water Pipeline | Bowen Basin, QLD



KEEPING CRITICAL WATER PIPELINES FLOWING:

The Eungella Water Pipeline, a 123km critical water pipeline supplying Queensland's coal industry and the township of Moranbah, faced ongoing failures at several air valve connections. Conventional repair methods required extensive excavation, pipeline drain-downs and prolonged shutdowns, increasing costs and operational disruption. To address these challenges, A Queensland bulk water authority looked for a faster, more efficient repair solution that would reduce downtime, conserve water and extend the life of the pipeline.

LOCATION:



BOWEN BASIN, QLD

RESULTS AND IMPACT:

The Plasson electrofusion solution significantly improved a Queensland bulk water authority's pipeline maintenance operations:



MORE REPAIRS PER SHUTDOWN:

The solution enabled more repairs to be completed within each shutdown window, helping reduce disruption and maximise pipeline availability.



REDUCED WATER LOSS:

Avoiding full pipeline drain-downs significantly reduced water wastage during repair activities.



LOWER PROJECT COSTS:

The electrofusion saddle solution reduced overall project costs by minimising excavation requirements and avoiding full pipe replacement.



SMALLER EXCAVATION FOOTPRINT:

Reduced excavation requirements minimised ground disturbance and lowered the environmental impact along the pipeline route.



INCREASED INSTALLATION CAPABILITY:

R & T Pumps developed specialist large-bore electrofusion installation capability, adding a valuable service offering for future projects.

CASE STUDY

PLASSON ELECTROFUSION SADDLES: KEEPING A CRITICAL PIPELINE FLOWING

Bowen Basin, QLD



The Plasson solution was the best option for the project. The training and support they provided has helped our team develop the capability to carry out large-bore electrofusion installations ourselves, adding another specialised service to our offering.

ROBBIE WARNE | R & T PUMPS

CHALLENGES:

Operating a critical 217 km water pipeline across the Bowen Basin, a Queensland bulk water authority faced several operational challenges that required a reliable repair solution with minimal disruption:

- > **Limited Shutdown Window:** Pipeline shutdowns were restricted to seven days every 30 days, requiring repairs to be completed quickly and efficiently.
- > **Risk Of Water Loss:** Draining the pipeline for repairs would result in significant water loss and operational inefficiency.
- > **Extensive Excavation:** Traditional repair methods required large excavations and full pipe replacement, increasing disruption and costs.
- > **Demand For Durability:** A reliable long-term solution was needed to minimise downtime and maintain water supply continuity.

SOLUTION:

A Queensland bulk water authority selected Plasson's electrofusion saddle solution, offering several advantages:

FASTER INSTALLATION

More repairs were completed within a seven-day shutdown window, getting the pipeline back into service faster.

VERIFIED WELD QUALITY

Every electrofusion weld was pressure tested before commissioning, with SmartFuse digital QA records providing full traceability for each join.

LESS EXCAVATION

The saddle repair needed a smaller excavation footprint than traditional pipe replacement, avoiding a full drain-down.

PRODUCT & SUPPORT

Plasson supplied an Electrofusion Repair Saddle and Electrofusion Branch Saddle, together with specialist tooling, installer training and on-site technical support for R & T Pumps.



BEFORE



AFTER