

Filling the Void: Silver City Highway

Greg Goodman

LandTeam

gregg@landteam.com.au

ABSTRACT

'Filling the Void' was a collaborative LandTeam Australia Pty Ltd / Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) submission into the 2015 Excellence in Surveying and Spatial Information Awards. Having been born off the land in the southwest of New South Wales and having been fortunate enough in the 1970s to travel as a surveyor to remote areas of Australia with BHP, to say that the author has developed an affinity with the outback is an understatement – I simply love it! This passion for the arid zone has been fuelled over the years with regular non-surveying trips to inland Australia and its bewildering environs. So, when an opportunity arose in June 2014 to perform the control and detail surveys for an RMS upgrade of a remote 14 km section of the Silver City Highway some 230 km north of Broken Hill, the excitement was difficult to contain – the opportunity to spend perhaps 2 weeks getting to know intimately a 'micro section' of the outback whilst working is a rarity. The purpose of the survey brief was to procure a detail engineering survey with network control suitable for input into detail road design and network control for the HW22 Shannons Creek Initial Sealing Project and designed to allow the Royal Flying Doctor Service to land on the highway to deal with emergency medical matters within the wide environs of the locality. This presentation outlines that this was no ordinary RMS infrastructure survey.

KEYWORDS: Broken Hill, survey, logistics, RMS, Royal Flying Doctor Service.