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St Helena Airport

Dry Gut Fill Hits 100%

Dry Gut Fill - 1 September 2014



The impressive filling of Dry Gut at the Airport site at Prosperous Bay Plain, a massive and critical element of the entire Airport construction programme, is now 100% complete after 22 months of hard work and perseverance from the Basil Read Earthworks Team.

The last production load was placed on Saturday 30 August 2014 at 3pm and the total volume of the Dry Gut fill is 7,612,255m³ giving a total height between the lowest and highest point of 119.8m. A total of 450,000 truckloads of material was used for the fill. Shaping of the fill will continue this week.

With Dry Gut now filled, it provides sufficient length for the runway - An extra 400m, of which 200m will be paved. The remaining 200m will be unpaved for the runway end safety area.

Head of Earthworks, Deon Robbertse commented:

"The Dry Gut fill is an example of what teamwork can do. I take my 'hard' hat off and salute everyone who helped with this part of the project. Through some good days and some bad, misty, rainy, downright awful days and nights, the team kept on producing and kept reaching their targets. They literally filled Dry Gut one load at a time. It was a privilege to work with the team and thank you to everyone who did their bit - 'It's hard to beat a person who never gives up' - (Babe Ruth)."

Did You Know?

- The first production load went into Dry Gut on 14 November 2012.
- 19 trucks were used day and night (with night shifts starting in February 2013) equating to over 12,500 loads per operator.
- Over 22 months, 503 day shifts and 437 night shifts took place to completely fill Dry Gut.
- In filling Dry Gut, each ADT has travelled around 60,000km - a total of 1.2 million km (750,000 miles).
- It takes five buckets per excavator to fill one ADT, which means that the four 70t excavators have turned and scooped up a bucketful of rubble more than 3.125 million times to fill the ADTs and to fill Dry Gut.

Dry Gut Public Open Days

When: Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 September 2014
Time: 10am - 2pm

A shuttle bus will run between these times from Bradleys to the Airport site. Drivers with 4x4s will be allowed to drive onto the site themselves (at their own risk). 4x4 drivers are requested to adhere to instructions of safety personnel and signage in place on the day.

Hot food, refreshments and souvenirs will be on sale. There will also be video displays and viewing points, together with guides, for different aspects of the project.

All are welcome.

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Dry Gut Photo Timeline

1. Basil Read First Visit to Dry Gut - 19 November 2011



2. View from Inside Dry Gut - 5 November 2012



3. Dry Gut 2.5% Complete - 22 January 2013



4. One million m³ Complete - 23 April 2013



5. Aerial View of Terraces - 20 June 2013



6. Dry Gut 50% Complete - 23 November 2013



7. Aerial View of Terraces and Fill from Sea - 15 April 2014
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8. Terraces and Access Track to Open Channel - 26 July 2014

