

Solid Liquid Extractor

COVEY CASE STUDY

Botanical Resources Australia is the world's largest producer of pyrethrum for insecticides. They desired to increase both the throughput and the extraction efficiency of their plant in Ulverstone, Tasmania.

Covey Consulting were engaged to consider options for upgrading the plant, while retaining as much of the existing equipment as possible.

We concluded that the most cost-effective way to improve performance was to replace one of the existing series of extractors with a much larger unit designed to give increased residence time and superior counter-current flow. Unfortunately, no commercial equipment was available that really met the process requirements, and the 'nearest fit' was very expensive and on long delivery time. Therefore, Covey Consulting designed a special extractor for the purpose and supervised its construction. The design incorporated many novel features which have overcome limitations found with equipment used for this type of operation in the past.

The space available for the new extractor was limited and access was constrained. Therefore considerable ingenuity was required in planning the new layout and in managing the installation.

Despite tight deadlines, the new equipment was in place by the end of 2008 and it has enabled the plant to exceed specifications for efficiency and throughput.



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