



# COOLAC BYPASS

ABIGROUP  
HUME HIGHWAY NSW

## PAVING THE WAY

Abigroup Contractors is one of Australia's largest multi-disciplinary civil engineering and building contractors. Since their establishment in 1961 when they were known as Abignano Pty Ltd, they have developed into a leading contractor through a commitment to excellence, with a team made up of leaders in the construction field. Abigroup's capabilities are diverse covering roads, water, bridges, tunnels, industrial, rail, telecommunications, mining, air and water ports, commercial, education, health, science and residential facilities.

Abigroup's work on the Coolac Bypass, saw them contracted by the Roads and Traffic Authority in a number of different areas for the \$174 million project. These included undertaking earthworks, drainage, the building of bridges, pavement and various other structures on the Hume Highway.

Specific work included constructing 11.8 kilometres of dual carriageway on the Hume Highway, as well as 4.1 kilometres of northbound carriageway between Muttama Creek and the Dog on the Tuckerbox at Snake Gully, just outside of Gundagai.

The project was opened in August 2009, with the full scope of works including a diamond interchange at Cootamundra Road east of Coolac,

an underpass for local traffic at Coleman Street in Pettit, two new twin structures at Muttama Creek and Daisy Bed Creek and an upgrade of Main St and Gobarralong Road in Pettit.

The construction fleet on the project included two D11 bulldozers, eleven 50 tonne dump trucks, eleven scrapers, one 50 tonne dump truck watercart, one 651 watercart, one 40 tonne moxy watercart, six graders, a 120 and 85 tonne excavators and three compactors and various rollers, road road trucks and watercrafts ect. Additionally, subcontractors employed four excavators, six road watercarts and various road trucks to use on site. A concrete batching plant was also established on site with three concrete pavers being brought on site to undertake the work.

Abigroup place as much value on safeguarding the environment as they do delivering the project on time, so when a platypus colony near Muttama Creek Bridge was discovered, main works were rescheduled to occur outside the breeding season. As well as the environmental consideration of the project, there were also cultural ones, resulting in extensive investigations and mitigation measures being undertaken to pay attention to details of local Aboriginal heritage.

The Coolac Bypass is improving travel times and enhancing safety for highway users. The project is part off the dual carriageway over the full length of the Hume Highway between Sydney and Melbourne, which is expected to be completed by 2012.

Abigroup is also a partner of the Hume Highway Southern Alliance, which is undertaking a \$300 million project that includes earthworks, pavements and bridges and is expected to be completed by December 2009. The upgrade will connect to the Abigroup-constructed Albury Wodonga Hume Freeway Project.

Abigroup is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bilfinger Berger AG, one of the world's top ten construction companies. Abigroup's growth since 1961 is testament to a dedicated team, that now consists of over 2,000 employees working on projects and in offices Australia-wide. They consistently deliver optimum outcomes across all types of projects, whether simple or multi-disciplined.

Abigroup has earned its reputation as a leading contractor through a commitment to excellence, years of experience and a committed team made up of leaders in the construction field. The company's approach,

which combines friendly professionalism with confidence and world-class expertise, has seen the contractor build rewarding relationships not only within the company but with clients, developers, consultants and the community, leading to a high rate of repeat business.

From the smallest to the largest project, Abigroup's clients can be assured that the project team is supported by a comprehensive corporate structure covering all aspects of the business, from design and structural experts to finance and marketing teams.

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## PROTECTING THE SURROUNDS

PPI Corporation was engaged to provide the drainage systems and passive filtration technology systems to the Coolac Bypass project. The surrounding areas are highly sensitive ecosystems, and therefore Abigroup wanted to ensure that these areas were protected from any on-going construction works, as well as any potential future damage during normal operations of the road system. This was done through extensive use of silt fences, rock filters and sedimentary basins, while the subsurface drainage consisted of the installation of a polyethylene pipe network.

Established in 1979, PPI Corporation is an Australian owned company with offices in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide, Townsville and Hobart, as well as a factory and sales office in Christchurch, New Zealand. Employing over 350 people, they have been a leading manufacturer and supplier of specialised products for irrigation, drainage, water supply, and domestic watering for over 30 years, predominantly polyethylene pipe and fittings.

One of PPI's strengths is their high quality manufacturing facilities that focus on quality customer service, distribution and developing strong relationships with suppliers, contractors and clients. This focus has seen the company gain a sturdy reputation for exceptional problem solving and service delivery.

While currently a leading player in the Australian water industry, PPI's products are being increasingly used in both telecommunications and gas infrastructure. The strength of their national network and broad range of products all contribute to the prospects for growth for this environmentally aware enterprise in today's world, where water is an increasingly vital natural resource.

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## WACKER NEUSON CONTRIBUTES TO MAJOR PROJECTS IN AUSTRALIA

**W**acker Neuson has a long history of involvement in major projects throughout Australia. The company's compaction rollers, rammers and vibratory plates are a familiar sight on soil and asphalt compaction projects nationwide.

Wacker Neuson also plays a major role in the production of large concrete precast elements (including high quality Super-T beams) for the construction of bridges, tunnels, pipeline systems, etc. Wacker Neuson's range of external vibration equipment are vitally important to ensuring these elements have the strength and surface quality necessary for the job they have to do, as well as casting these products in the shortest possible time.

The Coolac Bypass project is an example of Super-T beams being used for bridgeworks over the Daisy Bed and Muttama Creeks. Abigroup Contractors P/L supplied the Super T beams, which were cast at the company's precast yard in Wodonga. The beams were transported to the Coolac Bypass sites north of Gundagai.

At Gundagai the Sheahan Bridge was duplicated by Fulton Hogan, who also used Wacker Neuson high frequency external vibrators and variable frequency converters, to ensure the quality required for the Super-T girders cast on site.

Wacker Neuson offers a range of high frequency external vibrators and variable frequency converters to equip steel or wooden formwork of any kind. Each vibrator has special clamps to suit any formwork system. Vibrators can be mounted to the formwork, where the operator wants them, and moved to other spots as the concrete pour proceeds. This flexible system offers all the advantages of dedicated units used for large precast products, but adapts to all kinds of formwork, where once the time-consuming process of compaction with internal vibrators was the only option.

Throughout Australia, major contractors like Abigroup, Leightons, Fulton-Hogan, Thiess and John Holland are involved with producing these monster concrete precast products, as they build our national highways and other infrastructure projects. These companies put their trust in Wacker Neuson external vibrators and variable frequency converters.

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## ONE FOR THE ROAD



**A**bigroup understood the importance of exceptional traffic management for the Coolac bypass, and engaged the Major Projects division of Care Traffic Services knowing that this high profile and highly scrutinised project would be delivered safely and with minimal impact on the high volume of traffic.

The success of this partnership resulted with the Coolac Bypass being completed on one of Australia's busiest highways traffic incident free. With up to 12 people working on the project each day, Care Traffic liaised closely with the Abigroup scheduling production works, blasting closures and switching patterns as well as the supply of general staff and all equipment.

Since establishing this value added service almost 5 years ago, Care Traffic has delivered numerous contracts on the Hume Highway between Sydney and Melbourne with other construction firms the calibre of Leightons and Fulton-Hogan, as well as direct contracts with RTA and VIC Roads.

With more than 40 fully equipped vehicles, shipping containers filled with temporary signs, portable offices, kitchens and accommodation facilities, Care Traffic has the capacity to establish sites anywhere in Australia. Care Traffic also has numerous traffic lights, variable message signs, crash barriers, arrow boards and GPS guidance systems all ready to be mobilised.

Director Adrian Dart explains that 'on such a large project Abigroup expected much more than just men to hold a stop bat, and they knew that's what we would deliver'. Strategically incorporated in the ACT, and operating under Federal Conditions 'Code compliancy is a major issue for these big projects, being based in the ACT means we can setup anywhere in Australia and will always remain code compliant.'

Care Traffic's Major Project Division was established out of a need for a holistic approach to Traffic Management for the ever increasing large scale projects on Australia's major highways. Its vision is clear: to provide a unique approach to each project to ensure a safe and cost effective service for their clients. With the equipment and personnel on hand, Care Traffic is confident of continuing to accomplish this and building further on its considerable success.

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# TIME AND COST EFFECTIVE REGENERATION

Valley Hydramulch & Revegetation have been Revegetation Contractors since 1981, and over that time have developed Machinery and Processes to provide Cost Effective Solutions to Site Specific Problems. We developed our Hydramulch Units to handle heavier mixes than currently available American Machines, because results obtained are enhanced by soil amelioration. Each Unit can achieve Production of up to 50,000sqm per day for single applications with up to 12,000kg/ha of powdered ameliorants.

All our Operators have Full OH & S Inductions, ARTC Track Awareness Certification and are Quality Conscious to ensure best results are achieved. All works are supervised by Full Time Supervisors with many years of experience in Revegetation Works.

We carry out Site Soil Testing and Applications are designed to be site specific, with a detailed recommendation being submitted for consideration prior to commencement of works.

We carried out Tractor Seeding, Hydroseeding and Hydromulching with Wood Fibre and Sugar Cane Mulch on the Coolac Bypass Project on a total to date of 700,000sqm, and achieved results which satisfied the

strict Erosion and Sediment Control Requirements, even in an extended period of extreme drought.

To enable timely completion of Traffic Switches we frequently completed up to 100,000sqm per day to comply with the Abigroup Construction Programme.

Full Quality Assurance Documentation is provided to track applications and locations.

We are currently working for the Northern Hume Alliance where we have completed approx 2,500,000sqm of Light Compost Blanket over the last eighteen months, and have recently commenced works for the Ballina Bypass Alliance

Contact our Office for obligation free Quotations for your works, and Professional advice, especially in regard to our Hydraulically Applied Compost Blankets, which are a viable alternative to Erosion Control Fabric at a fraction of the cost.

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