

GEELONG RING ROAD

ABI GROUP
GEELONG VIC





ROAD TO SUCCESS

Having been successfully involved in Stage 1 of the Geelong Ring Road Project Abigroup was also awarded the design and construct contract for the 7.5 kilometre stage 3 section of the project. The \$108.3 Million section entailed the construction of standard dual carriageway freeway providing two lanes of traffic in each direction.

Abigroup is one of Australia's leading, and most successful, construction contractors. Its building division is one of the country's top ten builders by value and works in areas covering health, education, commercial building and residential developments. The company is also a leader of infrastructure delivery in Australia, having constructed some of the country's most high profile and important civil projects. Their

experience on large scale development proved essential to the successful expedition of the works required on the Geelong Ring Road.

The Ring Road, when completed in 2009, is expected to provide traffic relief for the congested centre and surrounds of Geelong, whilst increasing traffic flow-times to the coast, and south western Victoria. The project is seen as a vital part of Geelong's growth and development. Future economic and environmental benefits from reduced travel times have made this project a priority. It is anticipated that around 24,000 vehicles per day will use section 3 when completed.

Section 3 required the construction of dual carriageway with the provision for future

expansion to six lanes, three interchanges at Hamilton Highway, Barrabool Road, and the Princess Highway, an overpass, six bridges – including the 130 Metre twin-bridge over the Barwon River. Not to mention extensive earthworks, drainage, conservation systems and noise and pollution reduction methodologies.

The risks to the delicate environment of the Barwon River and surrounding area from major construction works such as this are considerable. Abigroup have invested a great deal of time and money to ensure that every precaution possible has been put in place to minimise environmental impact. The most sensitive areas surrounding the project have been fenced and signed to avoid damage. Other measures undertaken include the

extensive use of silt fences, rock filters and sedimentary basins to capture erosive flow-off and sedimentary movement before it reaches the water table of the Barwon River system. To this end, Abigroup have worked closely with environmental experts, consultants and the EPA to ensure that all necessary precautions have been undertaken. Water captured in sedimentary basins has been recycled and used to minimise dust – six dust monitors positioned along the length of the works enable Abigroup to monitor and manage any airborne particle threat to the environment. This preventative environmental approach is complemented by the extensive planting of native trees and the establishment of natural and artificial systems to protect flora and fauna well after the construction works have been completed.

With works now well underway, Abigroup are once again on target to deliver a substantial piece of urban infrastructure to the exacting specifics required by stakeholders. Extensive OH&S practices, on-site training and the experience of the safety conscious culture adopted by Abigroup will ensure a safe worksite for the many employees, visitors and sub-contractors. Also the close collaboration between Abigroup and VicRoads to deliver clear signage, local traffic management and information regarding possible alterations to existing roads, will also ensure that this project minimises any risks to those on the roads. The complexity of a project such as this requires the skills of a large and experienced team and Abigroup are able – through their years of major infrastructure projects

– to provide precisely that. Abigroup are also proud to be able to assist in the construction of Australia's future through the successful delivery of the Geelong Ring Road.

Abigroup
Constructing Australia's Future

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CUSTOM BRIDGE JOINTS MADE TO FIT

Most motorists will have little appreciation for the innovations put into the roads they travel on. Traveling through Geelong on the still to be completed Ring Road, few will have mind for the shiny aluminum beams across the road surface as they pass over the bridges. Though the fact is, these expansion joints prove wholly necessary to accommodate for thermally induced expansion and contraction of the bridge deck. Granor Rubber and Engineering, who are experts in engineered products targeted at the infrastructure market, know this simple fact all too well.

In being involved with the designers of the Geelong Ring Road, they were able to supply expansion joints that were tailor-fitted to the job. Business manager for Granor, Xavier Delattre, details the products used on this major infrastructure project.

“On this job we supplied AC-AR aluminum strip seal expansion joint systems and the “XJS” expansion joint system comprising impact absorbing header material 900PNS either side of a rapid cure 2 part silicone sealant 902RCS.”

“Some of the AC-AR and XJS expansion joint systems were installed by Granor’s approved installer, NICHE INDUSTRIES Pty. Ltd., the balance of the work was installed by Abigroup.”

Mr Delattre said that while readymade products were used, the demands of the project had also led to fittings that were custom-designed, fulfilling the exact requirements needed for the Ring Road.

Granor Rubber and Engineering Pty Ltd have been a major supplier of products to the civil

engineering market, both within Australia and overseas since 1972, so when it came to designing and manufacturing the expansion joints for this job it proved to be all in day’s work. Granor’s breadth of experience and the range of products they could bring to this project ensured a smooth operation.

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CURRENT TECHNOLOGIES

The Geelong Ring Road Project is a major undertaking by the Victorian Government and VicRoads. The Abigroup project is anticipated to provide much needed traffic relief for the congested centre and surrounds of Geelong, whilst providing more efficient travel to the coast and South Western Victoria. The Ring Road is seen as a vital part of Geelong’s continued expansion. Future economic and ecological benefits from reduced travel times and reduced greenhouse gas emissions have made this project a priority. It is expected that around 24,000 vehicles each day will use the ring road when completed. Completion is scheduled for 2009.

PPI Corporation was engaged to provide their drainage systems and passive filtration technology to the project. The Barwon River and surrounding areas are highly sensitive ecosystems. The developers went to great

lengths to ensure these areas were protected from the on-going construction works and future damage during normal operations of the road system. The extensive use of silt fences, rock filters and sedimentary basins were used to great effect.

PPI Corporation has offices throughout Australia and New Zealand and has long been a leading manufacturer and supplier of specialised products for irrigation, drainage, water supply and domestic watering. The private company is Australian owned with its own high quality manufacturing facilities and is backed by over 25 years of successful operations. A focus on quality customer service, distribution, and the establishment of strong and productive relationships with suppliers, contractors, and clients has seen PPI develop a sturdy reputation for exceptional problem solving and service delivery.

PPI make use of a decentralised warehousing system to ensure supply efficiency, and the company embraces the latest in CAD and CAM technology in its design and manufacturing facilities. Naturally all products are tested to exceed the required regulatory standards.

PPI is also a company that puts back into the community with initiatives such as an in-house programme with the Australian Red Cross to provide employment for people with disabilities. PPI is also a member of the National Packaging Covenant to reduce excessive packaging and a company dedicated to the provision of efficient water usage systems and business practices.

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