

# ENGAGING WITH THE LOCALS FACILITATES RESULTS

The \$55.6M Clyde Road Duplication includes the upgrade to Clyde Road in Berwick by providing two lanes in each direction between High Street and Kangan Drive.

MAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY : BMD Constructions  
PROJECT END VALUE : \$55.6 million  
COMPLETION : August 2013



It's not only motorists who have benefited from the Clyde Road Upgrade in Berwick. Improving safety for all road users, including pedestrians and cyclists was a major focus for VicRoads and the contractor, BMD Constructions. The \$55.6 million project has been jointly funded by the Federal Government and the Victorian Government, with BMD undertaking the \$14M construction contract on behalf of VicRoads.

The key aspects of the project include the construction of a new two lane divided carriageway between High Street and Kangan Drive; works on either side of a railway crossing; two new signalised intersections; reconfiguration of three existing signalised intersections; rehabilitation of an old service station site; construction of bike lanes and footpaths on both sides of Clyde Road; and the construction of indented parking bays along the west side of Clyde Road between Jane Street and Mansfield Street.

BMD's contract also included the relocation of HV and LV power from overhead to underground, and the relocation of water and Telstra service assets. This proved a challenging task, as there were a number of unknown and unidentified services due to Berwick being a historical township. The project offered a unique set of complex challenges, including a site passing through a highly populated, historic and well-developed area. It was vitally important that BMD ensured minimal disruption for road-users, and ongoing safe access for pedestrians.

"One of the particular concerns was the daily need for pedestrians to cross Clyde Road between High Street and Reserve Street to access medical facilities in the Clyde Road Service Road," explained BMD Community Liaison Officer, Tanya Barmby. "Through a unique partnership developed by BMD with the City of Casey and VicRoads, BMD established a free community bus which operated twice a week to take elderly residents

to and from their medical appointments in Clyde Rd Service Road."

Safety is always a priority for BMD, and the measures on the Clyde Road Upgrade project also included preparing detailed traffic management plans, careful staging of works to minimise disruption, and a number of site-specific initiatives were implemented.

"One key aspect of safety planning was working around services (overhead and underground), many of which are not known and recorded anywhere. BMD has implemented its thorough Overhead and Underground Services Procedure on this project and been able to deliver the works with no major incidents," said Paul Dall'Oglio, BMD Construction Manager.

In terms of environmental protection, site erosion prevention measures and sediment controls were implemented including silt fencing and silt logs. Tree protection zones (TPZ) were established, which included the protection of two heritage-listed gum trees. Human heritage also required protection, and an archaeologist was engaged to oversee the removal of culturally significant bricks that were uncovered during excavation works.

"The brick feature was considered of local historical significance and is an example of late nineteenth/early twentieth century civic infrastructure construction associated with the Shire of Berwick. After careful removal, the bricks have been donated back to the local Berwick community," said Tanya. "Local community groups are currently working together with BMD and VicRoads to explore ideas and options for ways to incorporate the heritage bricks into the project."

BMD was awarded the contract for the Clyde Road Upgrade in February 2012, with construction commencing in April 2012. Despite the numerous challenges, BMD remained on track with the project. On average there was up to 25 BMD employees working on the project each day, ranging from Project Manager to Engineers, Community Liaison and Foremen as well as a highly skilled labour team of direct employees. Major construction work for the Clyde Road Upgrade finished at the end of August 2013. This was well ahead of the original programmed completion date of December 2013. Minor finishing works including plantation of oak trees was completed in early October whilst the final road surface works commenced towards the end of November.

BMD also committed a significant amount of their plant to the project, including excavators, rollers, graders and underground boring equipment, which was used to assist with the service relocations. One of the contract conditions set by VicRoads for the project was for BMD to create a Community Liaison Officer Position.

"This type of role forms a new direction for VicRoads which enables the contractor to take more of a hands-on role in communication and stakeholder and community engagement," said Tanya. "For the Clyde Road project this role was a success. Working in partnership, VicRoads and BMD recognised that the key to successful delivery of this project was via effective communication management, and stakeholder and local community engagement to foster an environment of sincerity, mutual trust and respect."

"As there are numerous businesses and residences along the alignment, often daily discussion were required to ensure all relevant parties are notified of works and the impact on access in advance."

VicRoads and BMD creatively developed a number of opportunities that have successfully enabled us to engage with the local community and key stakeholders of Berwick and surrounding towns. For example, both project partners worked closely with the Berwick community and City of Casey to retain, relocate, donate and protect as many trees along Clyde Road, and roses at High Street intersection, as possible. Where trees were removed, the timber from them was donated to Berwick District Woodworkers Club, and has been used to create items for the local community. VicRoads and BMD will also plant approximately 90 advanced oak trees to help restore the leafy character of Clyde Road. The Clyde Road Upgrade has been a particularly complex project which has successfully overcome several obstacles because of the collaborative approach taken by BMD and VicRoads.

Other major road projects BMD is currently undertaking in Victoria include the Princes Highway West Duplication (Waurin Ponds to Winchelsea), Wyndham Harbour, the Princes Highway east Duplication in Sale, the widening of Terminal Drive at Tullamarine Airport and Stud Road Duplication.

For more information contact BMD's Business Development Manager - Mark Curtis, 0403 344 033, mark.curtis@bmd.com.au, www.bmd.com.au



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