



M80 RING ROAD UPGRADE (CALDER FREEWAY TO SYDNEY ROAD)

Thiess M80 Ring Road Alliance contract finalised at \$623m

Scope of work has been completed on Victoria's M80 Ring Road Upgrade, between the Calder Freeway and Sydney Road, with the contract finalised at \$623m.

In 2009, Thiess joined VicRoads and design partners Parsons Brinkerhoff and Hyder Consulting to form the Tulla Sydney Alliance to complete the 9.7km project.

The M80 Ring Road links a number of corridors and major arterial roads and facilitates freight movement between Melbourne, regional Victoria and interstate capitals. The overall M80 Ring Road Upgrade, which is being funded by the Victorian and Australian Governments, will deliver widening and improvement works to address safety and congestion issues and improve travel times and reliability, especially during peak periods.

Work on the Tulla Sydney section commenced in December 2009 and is progressing on schedule between Sydney Road and Pascoe Vale Road and from east of the Calder Freeway to Airport Drive, with the new lanes on track to open by the end of 2012.

Thiess Managing Director, David Saxelby, said he was pleased to see the project already benefiting from Thiess' strong experience in delivering critical infrastructure efficiently.

"We completed the \$2.6bn EastLink project five months early. This is yet another important project for Victoria and we look forward to the role it will soon play in positively positioning the state's roads for future economic growth," he said.

The Alliance's contract also includes:

- Widening to three lanes in each direction and a fourth and fifth

lane between some interchanges

- Installation of intelligent transport systems such as ramp metering and variable message signs to manage traffic flow
- Reconfiguration of freeway interchanges and ramps to improve traffic throughput
- Provision of landscaping and urban design to enhance the urban amenity.

Thiess' General Manager Vic/SA/Tas/NZ, Gordon Taylor said Thiess and VicRoads had a strong and successful working relationship with both currently working in the West Gate Freeway Alliance, to deliver the West Gate Freeway section of the M1 Upgrade. The pair also completed the Harcourt North stage of the Calder Freeway Upgrade, a 6.5km dual carriageway between Faraday and Ravenswood.

ABOUT THIESS

For more than 75 years, Thiess has been helping to build our nation. The Snowy Mountains Scheme, Sydney Harbour Tunnel, Melbourne's EastLink project, Brisbane's \$4.8bn Airport Link and Victoria's \$3.5bn Desalination Project are just a few iconic projects to bear the Thiess brand. A commitment to delivering great outcomes for clients has allowed the company to expand throughout Australia and into New Zealand, Indonesia, India and most recently the Middle East.

Thiess has an annual turnover of \$6.6bn and \$17.5bn of work in hand. With over 16,000 employees, it has become one of Australia's leading and most trusted construction, mining and services companies.

Thiess is a wholly owned subsidiary of Leighton Holdings Pty Ltd. www.thiess.com.au

EXPERTISE ENABLING SOUND PROGRESS

For half a century Douglas Partners have been putting major projects on a solid footing, by providing innovative geotechnical solutions and expert advice and analysis. Recently, they provided the Tulla Sydney Alliance (comprising VicRoads, Thiess, Hyder and Parsons Brinckerhoff) with specialist geotechnical support for the design and construction of the upgrade to the M80 between the Calder Freeway and Sydney Road.

Douglas Partners' scope included overall geotechnical review, supplementary investigation and geotechnical analysis of the design and construction methodology for the reconfiguration of the Tullamarine Freeway/M80 interchange; construction of a new 16m high embankment across the compressible clays of Moonee Ponds Creek Valley; and new bridges and widening of existing cuts in varying ground conditions ranging from basalt rock to landfill material.

Overall this section of the project involved some 5km of soil nail walls, 1 km of reinforced soil walls and 4 new bridges, modifications to a number of existing bridges, and new widened traffic lanes. Douglas Partners also completed the full pavement design, undertook vibration and movement monitoring (both vertical and horizontal), and provided construction phase services and earthworks testing.

The Douglas Partners team included Peter McDonald, Brian Ims, Sajjad Maqbool, Bing Lee and Peter Chan, who successfully co-ordinated and implemented geotechnical design solutions, including a range of innovations which assisted the Alliance with the successful completion of the project.

These innovations included the use of a high strength mesh in combination with soil nails to provide face restraint in a deep cutting in highly fractured basalt; the use of contiguous pile wall in fill containing voids to provide temporary support during bridge modification works; and the use of piles to transfer construction plant loads away from walls that had not been designed for such loads.

Douglas Partners is an Australian company, wholly owned by its employees with 15 offices throughout Australia and more than 370 professional staff dedicated to solving geotechnical, geological, hydrogeological and environmental problems through applied engineering expertise. The excellence of their skills and client-focused approach saw them awarded Best Consulting Engineering Firm (revenue \$50m-\$200m), Best Professional Services Firm (revenue \$50m-\$200m) and Best Provider to the Property Sector in Australia at the 2013 BRW Client Choice Awards.

The company operates 15 fully equipped, NATA-accredited soil testing laboratories in every office nation-wide, with modern field testing and monitoring equipment ensuring they provide comprehensive, accurate and reliable data for client projects.

Formed in 1963 as Ground Test, the company was purchased by senior staff in 1983 and became known as Douglas Partners. The company's skills and thorough understanding of the issues faced by complex infrastructure projects in both urban and remote locations have earned them a substantial reputation for successful problem-solving on major projects across the transport infrastructure, commercial, industrial, Government and residential sectors, including major infrastructure projects in both Australia and South East Asia.



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