

GOLD COAST HIGHWAY

MAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY : Seymour Whyte
CLIENT : Department of Transport and Main Roads
DESIGNER : GHJ
COMPLETION : February 2011
PROJECT END VALUE : \$18 Million

SEYMOUR WHYTE - A VISION TO SUCCEED

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Seymour Whyte was founded in 1987 by John Seymour and Garry Whyte, whose vision was to provide expertise in civil infrastructure in Queensland. The company started at small premises in Brisbane with just two employees and now has over 180 staff and offices in Brisbane, Townsville, the Gold Coast and Sydney. The company specialises in civil construction, roads and bridges, and on the Gold Coast Highway project it has been responsible for service relocations, bridgeworks, road lighting, traffic signals, pavements and major drainage works.

The \$50 million Gold Coast Highway program has involved three main projects and is set for completion in April 2011; works began approximately

three years ago. The project has been an important and at times challenging one for Seymour Whyte, particularly with regard to time constraints and the issues thrown up by the necessary service relocations.

“We’ve had to cater for two-way traffic and pedestrians in a narrow corridor and we’re very close to residential properties and businesses,” explains Alistair Pagan, senior project manager / Gold Coast area manager for the company.

“It has high volume of traffic, and with the bulk of the work underground with new services ... so that includes Energex, Telstra,

GCCC water/sewer and fibre optic services, coupled with major drainage upgrades and then we have to build a road on top of that.”

Seymour Whyte is mindful of reusing materials where it can, and this requires some foresight and making sure that jobs are programmed effectively.

“For example older base material of the existing road can be reused as sub-base material on the new works; you just have to program the works so when you’re excavating the old road you can potentially use it in other areas of the job,” says Alistair. “As



long as the gradings and other relevant specification requirements are acceptable, the material can be used as the lower base material on the new road rather than taking it away and putting it on a dump site.”

In recent times Seymour Whyte has received a number of awards. In 2009 it won Category Three at both the NSW and National CCF Earth Awards for the Central Coast Highway Upgrade, and in the same year also received human resources excellence awards at the Career One Queensland Excellence Awards and the HR Leadership Awards.

“We’re state finalists again this year at the Earth Awards for two projects – the Nerang South Interchange on the Gold Coast and the St Lawrence bridgeworks in North Queensland, and with St Lawrence we are going to be in the Australian finals in Canberra,” adds Alistair.

Currently, Seymour Whyte is working with other major contractors and is midway through the Ipswich motorway upgrade, a \$2 billion job just outside Brisbane. The new motorway will run between Dinmore and Goodna. The company has also begun early works for the new Gold Coast Rapid Transit System.

“By the year 2014 the Gold Coast will have a rapid rail system, from Parklands to Broadbeach,” explains Alistair.

“Seymour Whyte has been successful in an early works package before the main consortium starts valued at over \$45 million. We’re going into very sensitive areas in front of both hospitals and schools in Southport, and because of this and the political sensitivity of the job, a lot of eyes are going to be upon us.”



20 YEARS STRONG

Coastal Tipper Hire, based in Nerang East, Queensland, is a family-owned company that has been in business for nearly twenty years. Coastal was responsible for the truck and excavation hire on the Gold Coast Highway project.

As well as specialising in truck, Bobcat and excavator hire the company deals with the carting of building materials suitable for all trades associated with the earthmoving industry – gravels, soil, sand, mulches and the company's own recycled concrete products.

From humble beginnings in 1992 when it had only two trucks, Coastal Tipper Hire now has a large fleet that includes Hinos, Isuzu and Mitsubishi tippers, water trucks and twenty-six pieces of machinery. A key achievement in the company's history has been acquiring the mining rights to a sand pit in Jacob's Well, where they mined sand, stockpiled soil and mulches and produced a first-grade washed sand that was much sought after by local concrete companies including Readymix (now Holcim), Hymix and Pioneer.

The aforementioned recycled products are the domain of Coastal Tipper Hire's subsidiary, All Coast Recyclers Pty Ltd, which Coastal took over from another operator in 2003 and which is based in Southport. All Coast Recyclers produce 20/30mm aggregate, 15mm minus scalps and a 30/70 rubble, products that have proven popular with customers. The scalps are particularly strong sellers as they have proven to be a great option for builders and concreters for under-slab work.

As well as being able to buy recycled products and tip waste concrete, All Coast Recyclers' customers can bring their builders' and green waste to the facility and tip it at very reasonable rates.

Having survived the economic downturn, Coastal Tipper Hire is currently going from strength to strength, with large customers such as Fulton Hogan, Roadtek, Boral, Seymour Whyte and Origin D2G, with whom they proudly do business.



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CEMENTED IN EXCELLENCE

Hanson, which started life as Pioneer Concrete in the 1950s, is one of Australia's leading suppliers of heavy building materials to the construction industry. It produces aggregates including crushed rock, sand, gravel, crusher dust and road base, as well as a high-quality premixed concrete range. This includes over 10,000 standard mixes, along with premium and decorative concrete solutions that offer additional benefits like increased strength, higher durability, or in the case of the Imagecrete range, greater aesthetic appeal.

Hanson's third business division is precast concrete. This part of the business focuses on providing customers with architectural and engineering solutions through modern precast design and a product range that includes load-bearing facades, cladding and hollowcore wall panels as well as flooring and structural precast concrete.

Hanson is part of the HeidelbergCement group, which employs 57,000 people across five continents. In Australia Hanson has over 55 quarries, more than 225 concrete plants and 3 precast concrete facilities.

Hanson has supplied over 50,000 tonnes of aggregate and over 1500 cubic metres of concrete to the Gold Coast Highway works, and is proud to be collaborating with Seymour Whyte on this landmark infrastructure project. To date the main challenges for Hanson have related to limited site access. "A lot of the deliveries, particularly the aggregate deliveries, have had to be in smaller trucks," explains Hanson sales and marketing manager Murray Graham.

A strong commitment to sustainability is part of the Hanson ethos: the company is dedicated to quarry rehabilitation, water management and encouraging biodiversity. Its Clarence quarry won the CCAA's Quarry Environmental Performance Award after increasing the number of endangered Blue Mountains water skink living in its swampland by carefully monitoring ground water quality with piezometers.

Some key recent projects Hanson have supplied include the CLEM7 Tunnel in Brisbane, one of the largest infrastructure projects ever undertaken in Queensland, and the \$12.4 million Falcon Street Overpass in Sydney.



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OFFICE PRODUCTS DEPOT

The Gold Coast branch of Office Products Depot, which employs six staff, has supplied toner, paper and stationery to the Gold Coast Highway project.

The branch specializes in the provision of stationery, office supplies, office furniture and plan printing and delivers to construction sites and offices in South East Queensland. "Plan printing can be emailed then delivered on site," explains Alex Brock from the company. "You can also hire desks and chairs from us for use on construction sites."

The company has been in business for over twenty-five years on the Gold Coast and has over 170 outlets in both regional and metropolitan areas around Australia that are locally owned and operated. Office Products Depot is part of Office Brands, Australia's largest independent office products group.

Office Products Depot can tailor a system for ordering and supply to suit individual businesses' needs. Ordering can be done online, via

telephone or fax, or in person with one of the company's trained and accredited sales representatives.

Efficient distribution allows same-day delivery for orders placed before 11am to the Brisbane and Gold Coast regions. The company also offers express orders, which are delivered within two hours.

Office Products Depot is essentially a single-source solution for all forms of office supply needs, and over the years has built up a solid reputation supplying both conventional offices and attending to the needs of those operating from construction sites.

OFFICE PRODUCTS DEPOT

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