GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY UPGRADE

The project team working on the Great Western Highway Upgrade in New South Wales is known collectively as the Lawson Alliance. The team is made up of the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA), Abigroup Constructors Pty Ltd and Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd.

The highway works, also called The Lawson Upgrade, forms a major component in the transport system between Sydney and the Blue Mountains. The upgrade is completely funded by the NSW Government and commenced in 2008.

On Site Abigroup have a dedicated team of 35 staff who work alongside 3 permanent RTA staff and a team from Sinclair Knight Merz who attend the site as needed.

Abigroup Contractors, as part of the Alliance, are responsible for the construction process and have shown an ongoing professional approach in all aspects of the project.

TRIMMING TRAVEL TIME

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The main features of the upgrade include expanding the two lane highway between Ferguson Avenue, Hazelbrook and Ridge Street, Lawson to a four lane divided highway in two sections:

Section 1: Upgrade of Bass Street to Ridge Street; commenced in 2009
Section 2: Ferguson Avenue to Bass Street; commenced in 2010.

Another important phase of the Lawson Upgrade is the relocation of approximately 600 metres of rail line. The Lawson Alliance worked closely with Rail Corp during this step and remained on schedule throughout the process. The rail line is to be moved to allow for the new road alignment and the construction of the new bridge.

The realignment of the rail line involves moving the tracks from one side of the Great Western Highway to the other to make room for the extra road lanes and also includes a new rail interface and the design and construction of a 130 metre wide rail overbridge.

The upgrade of the Great Western Highway will improve travelling time and offers reduced congestion and enhanced road safety for all road users including cyclists and pedestrians. The upgrade also sees improved access and safety to the Catholic school and church precinct, safer bus stop locations and signalised pedestrian crossings.

The project took into consideration the local environment and heritage ensuring the preservation of local, natural, cultural and historical landmarks.

This major construction works not only includes the widening of the road but also the construction and relocation of retaining walls, bus stops, pedestrian fences, traffic signals, landscaping and more.

Abigroup, as part of the Lawson Alliance, provides a hands on approach to delivering infrastructure and construction projects. Supporting innovation across its workforce, Abigroup has been recognised as a leader in their industry.

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A STREETSCAPE FINISH

Australian Wetlands Pty Ltd partnered with Abigroup and the Roads & Traffic Authority (RTA) to deliver a high-quality streetscape finish for the Great Western Highway, Lawson Upgrade. The landscape contractors worked hard at producing a functional, eye-catching landscape.

Australian Wetlands are responsible for ongoing maintenance at the site. Their project team has been instrumental in ensuring the procurement, OH&S and quality assurance milestones were achieved, resulting in the successful delivery of this project. With a commitment to workplace health and safety, Australian Wetlands Pty Ltd ensures all their staff are vigilant in adhering to their OH&S policy. They believe their employees are their greatest asset and health and safety is a major priority on all projects.

A multi-award-winning company, Australian Wetlands Pty Ltd has over 17 years experience and now incorporates six offices and more than 50 highly experienced staff members and contractors.