

GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY UPGRADE

MAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY : Abigroup Contractors
CLIENT : Roads & Traffic Authority
ALLIANCE MANAGER : Paul Cejka
PROJECT END VALUE : \$220 Million
COMPLETION : Late 2012
URBAN & LANDSCAPE DESIGN : HBO+EMTB



TRIMMING TRAVEL TIME

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 Contractors 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.

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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GREEN DESIGNS TO BLUE MOUNTAINS

The Great Western Highway is a key link in the New South Wales regional road network and is the main road connection through the Blue Mountains from the NSW Central West and Sydney.

HBO+EMTB are the urban and landscape designers currently working on the Great Western Highway Upgrade at Lawson Section 1A. Working in partnership with Sinclair Knight Merz and Abigroup, the upgrade includes widening the highway to a four lane dual carriageway, construction of a new overbridge, relocation of the existing railway line and the planting design for both bushland and townscape areas.

The design objective is to improve safety while reinforcing the road experience that the area offers, such as great natural beauty and high ecological value. The landscape design acknowledges the World Heritage status of the site as well as the European history of the Lawson area. Adjacent to Sydney Rock, the site is also of significance for the local aboriginal people.

As part of the project, a unique stormwater arrangement was devised by HBO+EMTB for the Lawson Town Centre in order to supply much-needed water to semi-mature Pin Oaks planted as street trees. The Pin Oaks separate the highway from the town centre parking and shops and are an important design element. Standard stormwater pits

have been modified to direct water collected from the parking access road to the rootzone of trees.

HBO+EMTB are also engaged in other projects along the Great Western Highway including the Wentworth Falls East Upgrade which is currently under construction and the Bullaburra East Upgrade in the final design stages.

HBO+EMTB is an established, regional design practice with expertise in architecture, interior design, workplace solutions, urban design, landscape design, heritage and planning. Their design philosophy values the importance of producing enduring, sustainable designs that integrate commercial imperatives and social objectives.

In the last decade, HBO+EMTB has enjoyed continued growth, establishing over 20 offices across Asia Pacific, including China and India.

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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 Pty Ltd undertook all facets of landscape and revegetation works, which included the installation of soil preparation, turf, garden beds, sediment control basins, sandstone retaining walls, and plant establishment. Australian Wetlands are also 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.

Specialising in the construction and maintenance of road infrastructure, commercial, creek line, bio-retention and revegetation projects has seen Australian Wetlands Pty Ltd deliver outstanding results on many projects such as the Ballina Bypass, Tugun Bypass, Eastern Ring Road and Windsor Road Upgrade.

Working closely with both the private industry and government sectors, Australian Wetlands Pty Ltd has completed more than a thousand projects throughout Australia.

To find out how Australian Wetlands Pty Ltd can be of service to you on your next project, please visit their website at www.wetlands.com.au.

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