

# THE ROAD MUCH TRAVELLED

CLIENT : Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT)  
MAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY : Port Wakefield to Port Augusta Alliance, CPB Contractors, Aurecon and GHD  
CONSTRUCTION VALUE : \$200 million  
TYPE : Infrastructure/Transport



The Joy Baluch AM Bridge Duplication Project will improve road safety and efficiency and includes improved bridge access, new shared use paths, an upgraded intersection at Mackay Street, remediation work and new connections for pedestrians and cyclists.

**The original Joy Baluch Bridge was opened in 1972 to span across the gulf, as part of the National Land Transport Network.**

The bridge formed and maintained an important commercial and tourist link connecting Port Augusta to the Eyre, Stuart and Augusta Highways, the Far North of South Australia and inland Australia.

South Australia's Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) is improving transport links across the state and increasing opportunities for regional communities. The project will deliver quality infrastructure and improve road efficiency for this important crossroads of South Australia.

The Australian and South Australian governments have jointly committed \$200 million (80:20) to the duplication of the Joy Baluch AM Bridge. Being such a large scale project, the Joy Baluch AM Bridge Duplication Project team has had to manage significant environmental issues. To plan for and manage construction impacts,

the project team created a Construction Environment Management Plan addressing issues such as: erosion, water quality and marine fauna, dust, noise, vibration and light spill.

The project involves the construction of a second bridge alongside the original to allow for two lanes in both directions.

"The design and construction team had to build a bridge that matched the aesthetic of the existing bridge, in order to deliver the duplication. The scope of this project meant that there were some unique challenges facing the construction team, and they have done a great job to overcome them. On completion of the duplication project, we will have a fantastic, dual lane link connecting not just the two sides of Port Augusta but both sides of the entire country," said South Australian Minister for Regional Roads, Geoff Brock.

The Joy Baluch AM Bridge Duplication project is being delivered by the Port Wakefield to Port Augusta (PW2PA) Alliance, a consortium

of contractors including CPB Contractors, Aurecon and GHD, in alliance with the DIT. Formed in March 2020 the PW2PA Alliance recently completed the \$124 million Port Wakefield Overpass Project. In addition, the PW2PA Alliance are currently delivering the \$260 million Augusta Highway Duplication from Port Wakefield to Lochiel. The 28 kilometers of dual lane carriageway is one of the largest infrastructure projects ever to be undertaken in regional South Australia. While work on the Joy Baluch AM Bridge and Augusta Highway Duplication projects are running concurrently, the former is expected to be completed later this year and the latter in 2024.

The improved Joy Baluch AM Bridge will have safe pedestrian access with new pavements and shared use paths and new connections for pedestrians and cyclists. Approaching the bridge is an intersection upgrade with new traffic signals and footpaths.

Site activities began in November 2019 with night works to locate existing utilities services via potholing and visual inspection methods. Further investigation activities included geotechnical investigations, noise, flora and fauna assessments, as well as Aboriginal and Heritage surveys.

The PW2PA Alliance hosted forums with the local community and by November 2020 the design was finalised. Construction commenced with bridge piling works on the Westside Foreshore and remediation work including the widening of embankments

"Another challenge was that because the bridge is a vital transport link, we had to keep traffic moving across it throughout the duplication project. This was done by keeping the original section operating while we constructed the new section, before switching traffic onto the completed new section so the original bridge could be refurbished. We were able to realign traffic to the final configuration and have two lanes traveling in each direction," added Minister, Brock.

Last year a traffic switch saw traffic move onto the new span while the existing span was upgraded. The Joy Baluch AM Bridge is set to officially open mid 2023.

**For more information contact PW2PA Alliance**, phone 1300 161 407, email enquiries@pw2pa.com.au, website www.pw2pa.com.au

Below SA Profiling provided bulk excavation and road profiling services across the Joy Baluch Bridge project.



SA Profiling is a specialist road profiling company with a modern fleet of profiling machines, equipment and a team of highly experienced operators. In 2019 SA Profiling was at work on roadworks adjacent to the Joy Baluch Bridge Duplication site when they were noticed by CPB Contractors and engaged for their services.

“We started onsite with a crew of 10, working on the roads leading up to the bridge including driveways and entrances to businesses and residences along the way. We carried out bulk excavation and profiling on existing roads with two Wirtgen profiling machines, trucks and skid steers,” said Manager, Dyllan Bezzina.

“We were also engaged in profiling the asphalt off the existing bridge. Bridge work is critical, it is so important to profile the asphalt surface without causing any damage to the bridge. However, at SA Profiling we have quality, reliable equipment as well as accurate and efficient operators who take pride in a job well done.”

“On the job we were working to the Department of Transport and Infrastructure’s specifications and CPB Contractors guidelines. Before site works commenced, SA Profiling attended multiple meetings to establish the scope of works and to satisfy the numerous State Government and WHS regulations. This was our first job with CPB Contractors and we really enjoyed working with them and look forward to future contracts with them.”

“The actual job of profiling is easy for us, we have years of experience and we are very good at what we do. There was a lot of rain

in Port Augusta, but we are used to working around all types of weather, and this doesn’t stop us from moving forward. We worked in stages, profiling sections of the road and then leaving the site for a period for the new pavement to be constructed, then we would return to profile the next section.

Established in late 2018, SA Profiling is a South Australian family-owned and operated company with a goal of serving South Australia’s infrastructure projects with local South Australian labour and resources. Over the past four years they have grown to employ 20 staff and crews of operators, enabling them to take on large scale projects, often concurrently with other massive infrastructure developments. While at work on the Joy Baluch Bridge Duplication Project, SA Profiling were working on other DIT projects, the Port Wakefield overpass and local council projects.

“The DIT “P and R” Projects involve large volume profiling over approximately a month of night shifts. We had a window of three hours to remove large volumes of road surface before making way for the asphalt crew to come in,” added Dyllan.

SA Profiling has successfully completed other projects for South Australia’s Department of Infrastructure and Transport including at Magill road and Port Rush road intersection, Goodwood road and Springbank road intersection and at the Horrocks Highway, an important transport link. SA Profiling also have consistent work with Adelaide’s local councils, often through Joint Ventures with asphaltting contractors, maintaining and upgrading roads and they have completed maintenance work at Adelaide Airport.

SA Profiling is the only South Australian company to employ Trimble 3D Machine Control technology. This system allows any design to be uploaded into the profiler, supplying instructions for automatically cut levels, increasing the accuracy and efficiency of the job. SA Profiling can also provide their own designs, with the ability to create basic designs on the day of profiling, with more complex designs being prepared inhouse.

For more information contact SA Profiling, 10 Barfield Crescent, Edinburgh North SA 5113, phone 08 8252 7026, email [info@saprofilng.com.au](mailto:info@saprofilng.com.au), website [www.saprofilng.com.au](http://www.saprofilng.com.au)



Below Far North Traffic Alliance provided all of the traffic management requirements for the duration of the project.

Below Spencer Gulf Security Service provided comprehensive security systems for the Joy Baluch Bridge.



**The Far North Traffic Alliance (FNTA) is a dedicated traffic management business, a joint venture between the Dieri Aboriginal Corporation and Prime Traffic Solutions.**

Established in August 2020, FNTA create new opportunities for Aboriginal people in the Upper Spencer Gulf and Far North of South Australia. FNTA services all work sites including land which is Aboriginal owned and they focus on empowering community while giving back to Traditional Owners.

“We specialise in traffic management, traffic plans, workzone traffic planning and traffic control within our regional Adelaide area,” explained Managing Director, Sharon Van Kempen.

“At the Joy Baluch bridge we were the sole provider of all traffic management requirements for the duration of the project including the planning, site set-ups and pack-ups, and pedestrian control.

“It was a challenge to maintain and keep the traffic flowing on this busy route, we had six to eight Traffic Controllers each day and up to 12 during nightshifts using truck-mounted attenuators and portable traffic lights. The set ups were complex yet the traffic switch-overs

were conducted on time and without any incident, a credit to the many locally trained Traffic Controllers in Port Augusta.”

The FNTA has been at work on other sites with CPB Contractors, in the PW2PA Alliance, including the Augusta Highway, Eyre Peninsula and large-scale roadworks projects at Kimba and Lochiel. FNTA are also providing their services for BHP geotechnical surveying, McDonnell Dowell Diona Joint Venture (Water North Program) and Downer.

Since being awarded the traffic management contract for the Joy Baluch Bridge, FNTA have continued filling contracts in the region and expanding their business. “It has been challenging working on a new start up Joint Venture indigenous company, especially ensuring our staff get the right support, training and mentoring onsite,” added Sharon. “This is crucial to our future and the experienced staff supplied by Prime Traffic Solutions to fulfill this role have been outstanding.”

*For more information contact Far North Traffic Alliance, 6 Tassie Street, Port Augusta SA 5700, phone 08 8641 0092, email sharon.vankempen@fnta.com.au*

**Spencer Gulf Security Service provide the installation of comprehensive security systems to residential and commercial properties across regional South Australia and within Port Augusta.** Spencer Gulf Security Services install security systems that include alarms and CCTV and monitoring as well as providing static guards for construction sites.

“We’ve been providing security services at the Joy Baluch Bridge since work started there two years ago,” explained Business Manager, Kylie Van der Westen. “We have one or two officers monitoring the area throughout most days and each night. Unfortunately, we have a real issue in Port Augusta with vandalism and we were contracted to guard the machinery and materials at the site. We also provide these services to homes and businesses within Port Augusta and have officers patrolling the area nightly. We work closely with the police and have a good understanding of the communities needs, to help us better deal with the problem.”

Spencer Gulf Security Service is a locally run, family-owned company established 42 years ago. They maintain their own fleet of vehicles and employ officers who live within and outside of Port Augusta, for a quick response across the state.

“We offer a tailor-made service,” continued Kylie. “Our technicians visit businesses and homes to understand their client’s needs and to assess the vulnerabilities of their building. We then design an appropriate security system that includes proven security products, professional installation, maintenance and 24-hour monitoring.”

“Spencer Gulf Security Service has been guarding the construction site of Lincoln Gap windfarm during stages 1 and 2 and often work at community events like the Quandong Festival in Quorn, protecting the site before the event and working at the event. We’ve been at Progress Rail gate for many years and continue to do so. Occasionally we are called in to guard trains and equipment if there is a train derailment or a problem with the train line anywhere in SA. This is usually a last minute job and involves lots of travel. Luckily our officers are very flexible and are always up for a challenge!”

*For more information contact Spencer Gulf Security Service, 24 Victoria Parade, Port Augusta SA 5700, phone 08 8641 3232, email security@sgsspa.com.au, website www.spencergulfsecurity.com.au*

Below True Line Kerbing completed the kerbing and guttering and associated concrete works for the Joy Baluch AM Bridge Duplication.



**True Line Kerbing started onsite at the Joy Baluch AM Bridge Duplication in March 2022.** “True Line Kerbing worked directly for CPB Contractors as part of the Port Wakefield to Port Augusta Alliance, a consortium of builders working with the SA Department for Infrastructure and Transport to improve transport links across South Australia,” Business Manager, Harito Chrisakis explained.

“True Line Kerbing constructed the concrete kerbs and gutters, edging, median islands and pedestrian pathways on the bridge and the roads leading to it. We also made new driveways to access commercial properties from the new road. Due to the staging of the project and following the construction of the road we worked in stages, sending crews of six workers to the site to complete concreting works and then returning when another length of roadworks had been prepared.”

“The challenges included the weather, rain made the area very wet and as the site is on low ground, close to the river, our work was severely impacted by lack of drainage that the old infrastructure is suffering from.”

Established in 1980, True Line Kerbing is a family owned and operated company serving Adelaide and regional South Australia. The company

own and maintain their own plant and equipment at their Wingfield depot with a range of kerb making machines ready for high volume quantities of concrete placement. The scope the business covers ranges from large scale Tier-1 Infrastructure projects to smaller scope council residential repair works.

True Line Kerbing have been working for the SA Department for Infrastructure and Transport, either directly or through civil contractors, to install kerbing and guttering on a long line of infrastructure projects over the last 20 years.

In 2020 True Line Kerbing completed kerbing and guttering and associated concrete works along 20km of the Northern Connector and in the same year they finished work on the Darlington Intersection Upgrade.

*For more information contact True Line Kerbing, 16-18 Leeds Street, Wingfield SA 5013, phone 08 8359 8360, email [office@truelinekerbing.com.au](mailto:office@truelinekerbing.com.au) website [www.truelinekerbing.com.au](http://www.truelinekerbing.com.au)*