



AUSTRALIAN
CONSTRUCTION
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD

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Media Release

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Melbourne's EastLink project wins the 2009 Australian Construction Achievement Award

Melbourne's EastLink project, delivered by Thiess and John Holland to ConnectEast through its agency SEITA, was declared Australia's most outstanding example of construction excellence at the 2009 Australian Construction Achievement Award (ACAA) dinner in Sydney last night, Thursday 7 May.

EastLink is a \$2.5 billion, 45 kilometre project that connects Melbourne's eastern and south-eastern suburbs between the existing Eastern, Monash and Peninsula Freeways. At the time of construction, it was Australia's largest road infrastructure project, and was completed five months ahead of schedule.

The annual ACAA event was hosted by Mr Wal King AO, President of the Australian Constructors Association, and Mr Peter Godfrey, National President of Engineers Australia. The award was presented by Sir Rod Eddington, Chair of Infrastructure Australia, and was accepted by Gordon Ralph, the Thiess and John Holland project director for EastLink.

The Chair of the 2009 ACAA judging panel, Professor Archie Johnston, said that despite the different risk allocations under design and construct, public and private partnerships and alliance delivery models, all five finalists displayed exceptional quality and functionality, and illustrated excellent delivery performances where all projects were completed ahead of schedule and within budget.

"While all were outstanding projects, I and my fellow judges John Cassidy and Dick Prince considered that the EastLink project was exceptional across all of the criteria in this most difficult judging task.

"The successful delivery of the EastLink mega project demonstrates that our construction industry is amongst the best in the world, and stands willing and able to successfully complete many more major infrastructure projects and resource projects in the future, both in Australia and overseas," Professor Johnston said.

The EastLink project required more than 7 million cubic metres of excavation and earthworks, 1.3 million tonnes of asphalt, 2 million square metres of pavement, 88 bridges and 17 interchanges, as well as the upgrading of four local railway stations and the protection of the environmentally significant Mullum Mullum Valley. The EastLink tunnels were designed to comply with World Road Association standards with world-class safety features.

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Environmental features included planting 3.7 million indigenous plants, creation of 60 wetlands, realignment and improvement of existing creeks using soft engineering, best practice stormwater management, and 39 kilometres of shared-use trails and pedestrian overpasses.

Consultation with the community resulted in design enhancement and relocation of noise walls so that the community concerns regarding proximity and security were met.

The project also boasts the largest and most ambitious public art program, donated by the joint venture, along a major road in Australia.

The other four finalists were:

Bundamba Advanced Water Treatment Plant Stage 1A & 1B, Queensland - Thiess Black & Veatch Joint Venture. The \$374.6 million project is a key component of the Queensland Government's Western Corridor Recycled Water Project.

CBW Project, Melbourne – Brookfield Multiplex Constructions. The \$320 million project for CBus Property features two office towers with 5-star Green Star office design ratings in Melbourne's CBD.

Inner Northern Busway, Brisbane – INB HUB Alliance partners - Leighton Contractors, Maunsell, Coffey, BVN and EDAW . The \$333 million project for Queensland Transport provides an above and below ground integrated and dedicated busway transport infrastructure within Brisbane's CBD.

Tugun Bypass, QLD/NSW – Abigroup Contractors, SMEC - PacificLink Alliance. The \$543 million project for the Queensland Department of Main Roads has provided a bypass around Tugun in SE Queensland to eliminate one of Queensland's major traffic bottlenecks.

Further information about each of the finalists is available at www.acaa.net.au .

Previous winners of the ACAA have been: Perth Seawater Desalination project; Southern Cross Station, Melbourne; Runway Main Construction Works, Tullamarine; The Bond, Sydney; Alice Springs to Darwin Rail Link; Brisbane's Inner City Bypass project; Woronara Bridge in NSW; Queensland Clean Fuels project; Stadium Australia in Sydney; Wandoo B Offshore Oil Platform, WA; and the Glebe Island Bridge, now ANZAC Bridge, Sydney.

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