

# An Environmentally Friendly Road Project

## PORT RIVER EXPRESSWAY



The Port River Expressway has proven to be one of the most environmentally complex and challenging road projects in South Australia's history. The project is unlike any other due to its geotechnical and environmental elements, which has meant that respect for the environment has guided every aspect of planning and construction activities.

Approximately fifty per cent of the Port River Expressway, Stage 1 site was covered with up to four metres of uncontrolled fill which had been deposited along the alignment over the past 100 years. This fill consisted of demolition material, such as bricks, concrete and rubble, as well as household rubbish.

Earthworks started on Stage 1 of the Port River Expressway project in December 2002. During construction a significant amount of usable fill was recovered from over 94 000 tonnes of waste, which otherwise would have been removed from the site. This waste was processed and combined with better quality recycled material to build the base of the expressway.

The close proximity of the Port River Expressway to recycling industries enabled the contractor to use 1.7 million tonnes of recycled fill required for this project, equivalent to 75 000 fully loaded semi trailers. This enabled the 5.5 kilometre corridor to be built up to an average height of 1.8 metres.

Stage 1 of the Port River Expressway project highlighted how recycled materials can be successfully incorporated into a roadworks project with no compromise to the final product, preventing the need to quarry new materials and saving resources for future generations.

An Environmental Management Plan has been developed for Stages 2 and 3 of the project, outlining an extensive range of environmental management measures to ensure construction of the bridges and related infrastructure is undertaken in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Key environmental issues considered in the Environmental Management Plan include: construction noise and vibration (including impacts to adjacent residents and impacts on dolphins and other marine life); noise during the operations phase; land contamination; soil erosion; disposal of stormwater; resource use; and recycling.



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