

Harding Street Main Drain Replacement

Date

September 2009 to May 2010

Location

Coburg Senior High School - Urghart Street, Coburg

Project Value

\$2.3 million

Awards

Finalist – 2010 Civil Contractors Federation Earth Awards



Project Details

The Client identified urgent rehabilitation works required on a section of the Harding Street Main Drain along with rock beaching that had slipped causing environmental issues for Merri Creek, the drain is approximately 80 years old.

The scope of works comprised of replacement of approximately 400m of deteriorated box culvert with twin 1350mm Reinforced Concrete Pipes and improvement works to the outfall structure to Merri Creek.

Quality, Functionality & Impacts

We assisted designers in developing alternative alignments. The original affected a number of trees and existing services within Coburg Senior High School and would cause disruption, particularly during the proposed timeline, during end of year exams. Although the new alignment required the removal of an additional four trees, it was deemed more efficient as it avoided over-excavation and conflict existing services and in particular, the schools infrastructure.

Our team also assisted with the redesigned of the creek outlet to remove a hazardous sheer bluestone headwall, and incorporate a rock beaching with a gradual slope in its place. This in turn produced an outlet which was safer to construct, and safer to maintain. In addition, the "soft engineering" option using rock beaching significantly improved the aesthetic value of the outlet at Merri Creek, and the surrounding Council land. The large bluestone blocks which were recovered from the original culvert and were re-used around the outfall structure as "capping" and also used as seating in a new amphitheatre constructed over the alignment for the schools use and as a legacy of the project.

Stakeholder Management

The works presented a number of challenges with regard to managing interface between essential drainage construction works, while maintaining normal school operations at the Coburg Senior High School, particularly during the end of year exam period.

Testament to our client and stakeholder commitment, the school produced a video recording of the works as a sign of their appreciation. This exemplifies the excellent working relationship developed between our site personnel and the local community, which in this case was Coburg Secondary High School.

The Client performed an independent stakeholder satisfaction survey. This returned a score of 100%, a credit to all involved.



Major Lessons Learned

It was beneficial to the project that we were involved throughout the design in order to understand all stakeholder and client requirements (and constraints), and be able to plan the work methodologies accordingly.

This approach, and close management of a small number of specialist personal (via keeping construction areas open) enabled greater flexibility with regard to programming, particularly when difficult issues arose such as unforeseen services obstructions, and extended wet weather.

Client Satisfaction

The construction phase of the project commenced on 23rd November 2009 and reached practical completion on 30th April 2010, 4 weeks ahead of schedule and 5% under budget.



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