SMEC Secures Design Contract on Pacific Highway Upgrade in Australia

1 February 2016

SMEC has been awarded a contract with New South Wales (NSW) Roads and Maritime Services to undertake the detailed design of the 18 km Broadwater to Pimlico section of the Pacific Highway Upgrade in New South Wales, Australia.

The Pacific Highway Upgrade is one of the largest road infrastructure projects ever undertaken in NSW. Approximately 408 km (62%) of the highway between Hexham and the Queensland border is now a four-lane divided road, 145 km of highway is currently under construction, and all remaining sections are being prepared for the commencement of major works.

SMEC has extensive design experience on the Pacific Highway Upgrade, having completed design works on the Banora Point Upgrade, the Bulahdelah Bypass, Brunswick Heads to Yelgun (7 km of carriageway), Warrell Creek to Nambucca Heads (20 km of carriageway) and the Ballina Bypass (11 km of carriageway). As a result, “SMEC has built a solid reputation with Roads and Maritime Services for delivering quality services on time and within budget”, explains James Phillis, SMEC’s Regional Director for NSW and ACT.

As part of the greater 155 km Woolgoolga to Ballina Upgrade, Broadwater to Pimlico will comprise a new greenfields section and the duplication of the existing highway to form a 110 km/h four-lane dual carriageway. Scheduled for completion in 2020, the Woolgoolga to Ballina Upgrade will signal the completion of the Pacific Highway Upgrade to a dual carriageway.

SMEC’s services on the project will include: detailed geometric design of the highway; flood studies; detailed cross drainage and longitudinal drainage design (with water quality basins); detailed design of 12 bridges, drainage culverts and retaining walls; and design of pavements and road furniture.

Mr. Phillis states that “a key reason SMEC believes it was awarded this contract, is thanks to its unique appreciation for the local area, including a strong team of key people who live locally and work in SMEC’s Grafton office. Many of SMEC’s project team members have previous experience working on sections of the Pacific Highway, both in an engineering capacity and in carrying out studies to help Roads and Maritime Services mitigate the highway’s impact on local flora and fauna.”
Upon completion, the highway upgrade will: improve road conditions, reduce road accidents, support regional and economic development, improve services for local communities, reduce travel time, increase transport efficiency and improve road reliability. “SMEC has an excellent reputation for delivering quality services on time and within budget, and the successful delivery of this project will further cement this”, concludes Mr. Phillis.

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