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Project facts



The Cambridge section

- 16km of four lane median divided expressway
- Eight bridges including the Karapiro Gully Viaduct
- 1.25 million cubic metres of earthworks – enough to fill 500 Olympic sized swimming pools
- 500,000 square metres of paved road – which would pave Queen St, here in Cambridge, over 25 times
- 2,100 tonnes of steel – more than the weight of 1,000 Ford Rangers
- 30,000 tonnes of concrete – almost 75 times heavier than a Boeing 747-400
- 365,000 exotic and native plants
- There were up to 350 people on site at peak times

Machines for the big dig

Up to 150 pieces of equipment were used on site during peak summer construction. The huge scale of earth moving operations meant at times up to 30 trucks were on the go carting soil the length of the route. This meant up to 500 truck movements on the haul road each day. Machines included:

- 20 excavators ranging from 2-50 tonnes
- 17 bulldozers and 14 scrapers
- 16 articulated dump trucks (9 x 40 tonne and 7 x 30 tonne)
- 12 truck and trailer units, and 13 rollers
- 15 water carts used for dust suppression
- 4 crawler cranes including a 280 tonne crawler crane used for piling work
- 1.2 million litres of water a day was used for dust control during the summer months



This is a 50 tonne excavator and a 30 tonne articulated dump truck working together on an excavation



This grader is used to create a wide, flat surface before a road is sealed



This scraper scoops the ground beneath it to pick up dirt and move it somewhere else

Traffic management



There is approx 192km of wire rope used in barriers and approx. 30,300 litres of paint was used for pavement marking



The voltage of the street lighting is only 230 volts, similar to a wall socket in your home



There were approx. 300 temporary traffic signs used on site and 330 permanent signs along the project length



There were 20 people on site everyday looking after temporary traffic management



Newly planted native grasses around a stormwater pond



Approx. 2km of concrete crash barriers and 4000 traffic cones were used on site

