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SYDNEY

## Leighton Contractors JV secures major Pacific Highway Sapphire to Woolgoolga Upgrade

Leighton Contractors and its joint venture partner Fulton Hogan have been selected by the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) as the preferred proponent for the design and construct contract to deliver the \$698 million Pacific Highway Sapphire to Woolgoolga Upgrade project.

Located on the NSW mid north coast, the Sapphire to Woolgoolga Upgrade is a major project in the current Pacific Highway Upgrade program between Sydney and the Queensland border.

Peter Handel, General Manager NSW/ACT, Construction Division of Leighton Contractors, said today's announcement is very significant for the company in NSW.

"Leighton Contractors is well known for its ability to deliver complex regional highway upgrades for the RTA from the Hume Highway duplication to the current Pacific Highway Upgrade program," Mr Handel said.

"Our experience on other Pacific Highway alliance projects now underway at Ballina and Kempsey means we are ideally placed to work with Fulton Hogan to achieve best value for money and excellent results on the Sapphire to Woolgoolga Upgrade.

"Our fully integrated delivery team is looking forward to working with the RTA, local authorities and the surrounding community as the Sapphire to Woolgoolga Upgrade is rolled out over the next 3 years."

The Leighton Contractors/Fulton Hogan team will now work with the RTA to finalise commercial arrangements and execute the project deed in the coming weeks. The value of the project to Leighton Contractors is subject to finalising the project deed.

Construction of the project is expected to start in the second half of 2010. Works will involve the design and construction of:

- 25km of dual lane divided carriageways
- 30 bridges or bridge sized structures, including new and replacement bridges over existing creeks and for the underpasses/ overpasses associated with the new interchanges
- A local road network to allow local traffic, including school buses, to travel through the area without using the upgraded highway
- Five new interchanges at Gaudrons Road/Spilt Solitary Road, Sapphire; Moonee Beach Road/Hoys Road, Moonee Beach; Fiddaman Road/Graham Drive South, Emerald; Graham Drive North/Hearn's Lake Road, south Woolgoolga; and Arrawarra Beach Road, Arrawarra.

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For further information please contact:

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#### About Leighton Contractors

Leighton Contractors is one of Australia's leading contracting and project development groups with approximately \$8.8 billion work in hand, employing more than 9,000 people across Australia and New Zealand. The company services clients across a range of industries and sectors including resources, construction, telecommunications, energy, infrastructure and facility management.

#### About Fulton Hogan

Fulton Hogan is a major Australasian civil contracting company, with interests in a broad range of products and services in the roading, quarrying, civil construction, infrastructure maintenance and land development sectors.