



Location	Western Sydney, NSW
Client	RTA
Scale	\$1.5bn (D&C) \$260m (O&M)
Role	PPP Sponsor, Equity Investor D&C Contractor, O&M Contractor
Timing	2000 - 2035



Project Summary

Completed in 2005, Westlink M7 in Sydney forms the western element of the Sydney orbital road network providing an uninterrupted journey between the M2, M4 and M5 motorways. The 40 kilometre motorway is a fully electronic toll road that allows motorists to bypass 48 sets of traffic lights, a significant time saver for commuters and is a key arterial for the growth suburbs of Western Sydney.

Westlink M7 is a motorway of superior finish and amenity having been constructed by Leighton Contractors in joint venture with Abi Group, finishing some 8 months ahead of schedule. The M7 has been awarded a four star rating and was described by the NRMA as the safest highway in NSW during its

Australian Road Assessment Program. The motorway continues to be maintained by a joint venture between Leighton Contractors and Bilfinger Berger.

Value of Leighton Ownership

Leighton Contractors was a project sponsor with an initial equity investment of 10% in the motorway. Leighton Contractors Investment and Facility Management Division (IFM) recently sold its remaining 5% ownership interest after 5 years and following 2 years of successful post construction operation in which the road experienced strong traffic growth and delivered an average trip length 30% above initial forecasts. During the period of ownership, IFM formed part of the Westlink M7 board participating in all strategic, operational and management



decisions and initiatives, including successful early release of ramp up reserves and re-rating of the company to BBB.

Westlink M7 is an example of how Leighton Contractors involvement in the construction, long-term operation and maintenance and medium term equity ownership promotes successful outcomes for clients and stakeholders.

Promoting a Healthier Environment

Westlink M7 includes a 40 kilometre off-road cycleway for cyclists and pedestrians. The cycleway features its own bridges and some 60 connections to local roads, providing access to other parts of the Western Sydney cycleway network.

Construction Overview

The M7 was designed and constructed by ALJV, a joint venture between Abigroup Contractors and Leighton Contractors, at a cost of \$1.5 billion. At the time of its completion the motorway was Australia's largest urban road project.

In addition to the 40 km of dual carriageway motorway pavement, the project included construction of 17 interchanges, 38 overpasses and underpasses, 144 bridges, 20 km of local street upgrades and a four metre wide shared pedestrian path and cycleway running the length of the motorway.

Construction commenced in February 2003 and was completed by December 2005, eight months ahead of schedule.

ALJV employed the segmental bridge construction technique using match-cast bridge segments to construct the bridges for

the M7. This technique saved a substantial amount of construction time, assisting ALJV's early delivery of the project. A project-specific pre-casting yard was constructed to produce the pre-cast bridge units on site. The M7 route includes 144 bridges with a total length of 14 km. More than 2,700 pre-cast concrete segments were used in the construction of bridges along the route.

Construction of the M7 employed the stringless set out method for laying seamless continuously reinforced concrete pavement. This pavement design allows the elimination of bridge joints, resulting in substantial ongoing maintenance savings and reduced noise impacts to local residents.

Operations & Maintenance

Operations and maintenance for the M7 are performed by Westlink Services, a joint venture between Leighton Contractors and Bilfinger Berger Services. Westlink Services is contracted to WSO Co to perform operations and maintenance for the life of the concession. WSO Co has the obligation to operate, repair and maintain the motorway under the Project Deed.

WSO Co outsources its tolling and customer management operations to Roam, a company owned by Transurban Group. Transurban Group operates the largest customer base of electronic tolling accounts in Australia, with over one million electronic tags on issue.



Contracted services

Roadside operations and maintenance services provided to WSO Co by Westlink Services consist of:

‘Core Services’ including:

- routine maintenance for example sweeping, grass cutting, asphalt repair, bridge joint maintenance, wire rope barrier repair, gantry repair, servicing roadside tolling equipment;
- minor unplanned maintenance;
- inspections and auditing for example workplace inspections, road safety inspections and environmental testing;
- provision of a 24 hour response service and a 24 hour control room operation; and
- reporting including on maintenance performed, environmental management, security, traffic incidents, faults and defects and antisocial behaviour.

‘Reimbursable Services’ including:

- emergency repairs to pavements after accidents;
- cleaning diesel spills; and
- repairing other damage caused by third parties and potentially claimable against those third parties.

‘Additional Services’ including:

- resurfacing;
- major repairs and replacements; and
- improvements and expansion works.

Westlink Services provides input on an annual basis into WSO Co’s repair, refurbishment and replacement program based on:

- design life of key components;
- residual design life requirements at handover under the Project Deed;
- vendor information;
- the Operator’s routine maintenance regime; and
- operational experience on other toll roads.

The scope of the operations and maintenance performed by Westlink Services assists WSO Co in meeting its obligations under the Project Deed, for example in relation to:

- occupational health and safety;
- routine and reactive maintenance;
- environmental management;
- security;
- compliance with the Minister’s conditions;
- management and monitoring of traffic flow and operations;
- monitoring, response and reporting of incidents; and
- lane availability.