

## Quality Control on Australia's Largest Road Construction Project

**Geoff TAPLIN**  
Maunsell AECOM  
Melbourne, Australia  
[geoff.taplin@maunsell.com](mailto:geoff.taplin@maunsell.com)

Geoff Taplin is the Design Review Manager, Structures & Tunnel for the Independent Reviewer, EastLink Project, in Melbourne



**Peter BALFE**  
Sinclair Knight Merz  
Melbourne, Australia  
[pbalfe@skm.com.au](mailto:pbalfe@skm.com.au)

Peter Balfe is the Independent Reviewers Representative for the EastLink Project, in Melbourne



### Summary

The EastLink Project is the largest road project under construction in Australia, and is being delivered under a public-private partnership. Quality control is being achieved by a combination of quality assurance in accordance with ISO 9000 standards, and independent external verification and checking. This paper discusses the arrangements required to achieve effective quality control and explains the roles that have been established for the various parties involved with the project to deliver a quality outcome for the private sector investors and for the community. Examples are provided to demonstrate the need for planning to ensure construction quality.

**Keywords:** quality assurance, external verification, public private partnership, EastLink.

### 1. The EastLink Project

The EastLink Project is the largest road project under construction in Australia with a construction cost of €1.5 billion. EastLink comprises 39 kilometres of predominantly six-lane tollway, and six kilometres of untolled bypasses, connecting Melbourne's eastern and southern suburbs (Figure 3). The motorway includes in excess of 90 bridges, and twin 3 lane 1.6 kilometre tunnels. The tunnels are being built to preserve unique flora and fauna through a creek valley. More than 35 kilometres of bicycle and pedestrian paths, and extensive urban design and landscaping, including more than 4.7 million plantings, will be included in the project.

Construction began in early 2005 and the motorway is expected to begin operation in 2008. Figures 1 and 2 show progress along the route in early 2007.



Fig. 1. Road and bridge construction Jan 2007



Fig. 2. Tunnel construction Jan 2007