

EAGLEHAWK NECK – OLD JETTY ROAD TO Blowhole Road

Date: Jun 2021 to Dec 2022

Principal: Dept of State Growth

Project Value: \$3.65M

TASK

Completed as part of a COVID-19 stimulus package, this project incorporated the realignment and widening of the Arthur Highway adjacent Eaglehawk Neck and included the recreation of approximately 600m of coastal erosion protection measures to the adjacent waterway and then realignment of the existing road to widen and improve turning measures.

As part of the works additional subgrade improvements and drainage structures were required due to the poor founding conditions at the site along with additional infrastructure such as footpaths and safety barriers.

CHALLENGES

Indigenous and European heritage in the area required a focused sensitivity to these issues. Whilst DSG had consulted on the design of the works, Indigenous group objection required a period of redesign. As the contractor, Shaw worked with DSG to improve the design to assist managing these issues.

Despite the drivers of stimulus during the COVID-19 pandemic and supporting the local economy, the works timing coincided with poor weather conditions – this prevented activities such as sealing. However, to maintain the focus on stimulus, Shaw completed significant works in advance of pavement and sealing works on the shoulder to winter – holding until more favorable weather conditions returned. In the interstitial period, Shaw maintained the road such that it was trafficable by locals and the tourism sector alike and maintained the existing speed limit.

The coastal nature induced significant interface with flora and fauna. As the works pushed into Eaglehawk Bay, there needed to be sensitive works in the waterway. Furthermore, the existing road structure served as a habitat to a little penguin population. Shaw had to enact measures to be sensitive to these touchpoints and works were placed on hold if and where these encountered.

OUTCOMES

The works were delayed a number of times, however, Shaw worked cooperatively and collaboratively with DSG to avoid making delay claims. DSG were very conscious of the increased traffic volumes incurred during holiday periods and Shaw accelerated the works to ensure it was completed prior to the Christmas Period.

