

POWRANNA

# Midland Highway

Date: Sept to Nov 2025

Principal: Dept of State Growth

Project Value: \$650K

## TASK

Under its select empanelment, Shaw was engaged by DSG to complete a subgrade repair and resurfacing of a 500m stretch of the Midland Highway near Powranna.

## CHALLENGES

The Midland Highway is one of Tasmania's most important roads connecting Hobart and Launceston. It was clearly important for DSG to maintain the operability of the highway during the works. This operability was challenging due to the presence of wire rope guardrail down the centre line. Shaw detensioned the wire rope and engaged an intelligent traffic management strategy to allow continuous movement rather than having traffic passing through the site. Beyond the improvement to the traffic scenario, separating traffic improved the safety for our workers and quality outcomes of the project.

The road was subject to failure due to poor subgrades. While the design was cognisant of this issue, the true extents needed to be developed on site. Careful coordination between the Superintendent, Principal and Shaw meant that these extents were quickly identified and resolved to minimise impact to programme and therefore cost and stakeholder inconvenience.

Whilst the contract was issued as a construct-only issue, it became clear during the course of the works that the sealing strategy of the design was not fit for purpose. Using our knowledge of these arrangements, Shaw was able to refine the seal selection strategy and enact it generating a saving to the Principal.

## OUTCOMES

Careful planning, cooperation and collaboration between the parties meant that this relatively small project was delivered in spite of the technical and logistical challenges posed. Moreover, the works were completed ahead of programme including prior to the Christmas break certainly improving the stakeholder and road user experience.

