



New bridge faithfully replicates art deco era

Innisfail in North Queensland is famed for its architectural buildings and structures. Its CBD has Australia's largest concentration of art deco buildings, featuring examples of Spanish, Sicilian, Moroccan, Italian and Anglo Saxon art deco design facades.

Innisfail's landmark Jubilee Bridge was built in 1923, and provided an important link between East Innisfail and the CBD, carrying up to 10,000 motorists a day. Crossing the South Johnstone River, the bridge carried all services – electricity, sewerage and water. By May 2010, the bridge had aged to such an extent that the Cassowary Coast Regional Council was forced to close it off to all vehicular traffic. Engineering tests found the bridge had deteriorated rapidly, with major cracking and scouring of the piles. With the bridge closed, residents had to undertake a six kilometre detour.

When the Council decided to replace the Jubilee Bridge, the recreation of its art deco style was a critical factor in the design of the new bridge. Other important considerations for the new bridge were cost effectiveness and speed of construction. The rapid replacement of the bridge was critical.

In supplying precast for the bridge, Humes played a key role in helping to maintain Innisfail's reputation as the art deco Capital of Australia.

Project Owner

Cassowary Coast Regional Council

Architect and Project Superintendent

BMD
Albem

Service Engineer

GHD

Precast manufacturer

Humes

www.nationalprecast.com.au



Humes delivered a tailor-made decorative precast solution to ensure the new bridge faithfully represented the art deco style. Specially made moulds were used to create the 108 decorative precast plinths and 112 decorative precast infill panels. As well, 12 precast arch facades were supplied, the spans of which were built to imitate the original arches. All elements in the new Jubilee Bridge met stringent load standards set down by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads.

The precast solution that was delivered, ensured that BMD was able to meet an extremely tight construction program and minimise on-site labour works, which helped to keep costs down and make the bridge's completion less susceptible to weather conditions.

The end result authentically recreates the art deco style of the original Jubilee Bridge, while delivering a solution that will serve the town of Innisfail for many years to come.