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WEST GATE TUNNEL

The West Gate Tunnel project is a Public Private Partnership between the State of Victoria and Transurban. This project was instigated through a Market Led Proposal from Transurban which resulted in a contract execution in December 2017 for the project worth \$6.7 billion.

Project Scope: The West Gate Tunnel project is an integrated transport solution to one of Melbourne's major transport constraints, the West Gate Freeway and West Gate Bridge. The project involves

- Upgrading and widening the West Gate Freeway from 8 to 12 lanes. New express lanes between the M80 and the West Gate Bridge will reduce weaving and merging that leads to traffic congestion;
- A new tunnel will be constructed from the West Gate Freeway to the Maribyrnong River, taking motorists and trucks underground and off residential streets; and
- A new bridge over the Maribyrnong River and an elevated road along Footscray Road will provide direct links to the Port of Melbourne, CityLink, an extended Wurundjeri Way and into Docklands and North Melbourne

Services: SmedTech was engaged to act as the Technical Lead for the State team early in the development of the West Gate Tunnel proposal. This role was eventually undertaken by the Western Distributor Authority when it was formed part way through the procurement phase, with continuing assistance and advice from SmedTech.

In this role, SmedTech oversaw and directed the development of the concept and reference designs, led the development of the Outline Scope and Requirements and led the technical negotiations with Transurban. SmedTech was the lead advisor for the development and negotiation of the tolling structure and pricing and oversaw the modelling and traffic analysis. SmedTech led the traffic and transport analysis for the State team, reviewing the original submission from Transurban and worked with the team to refine the design and improve the connectivity. This involved reviewing the existing and predicted traffic performance issues and developing treatments to address these, whilst also providing suitable connections for the West Gate Tunnel in the Port of Melbourne and to move around the Melbourne CBD. Microsimulation models were developed for the project corridor for option development and testing of the overall Reference Design. The SmedTech team were heavily involved in the procurement phases both during the interactive tender workshops and during the tender evaluation. SmedTech continue to advise the West Gate Tunnel Project through the provision of technical advice relating to construction movements and the potential staged opening of the project.