Early earthworks for Western Sydney International Airport

Early earthworks, which began in September 2018, are helping prepare the foundations to build Sydney’s new airport and includes:

- moving 1.8 million cubic metres of earth
- clearing, remediation and bulk earthworks
- construction of a new and realigned Badgerys Creek Road
- installing utilities and temporary works; and
- construction of a new intersection at Elizabeth Drive, in collaboration with Roads and Maritime Services.

The work is being carried out by CPB Contractors and Lendlease Joint Venture (CPBLL JV) and is expected to be completed in 2020.

Completed work

In previous months, the project team has:

- completed 1.5 million cubic metres of earthmoving
- completed the Badgerys Creek Road bridge deck
- completed the installation of concrete safety barriers along Elizabeth Drive
- completed the installation of new electrical infrastructure along Elizabeth Drive
- completed Separable Portion 1 (SP1).

In just over a year, the Early earthworks team has completed the first section of the project. This section, located at the north western corner, involved relocating more than 28,000 cubic metres of top soil. The team then undertook about 250,000 cubic metres of cut to fill to build a flat pad ready for the next stage of construction.
Meet the team
In July, the Early Earthworks project was proud to celebrate NAIDOC Week. The project has strong Indigenous representation led by one of our most senior foremen, Travis Fell. We sat down with Travis to find out more about his journey.

Q: What does it mean for you to see Indigenous representation on the project?
It is extremely important to have Indigenous representation on the project and in doing so be a role model for the Indigenous community. This is especially important for the younger generations to see that anything is possible and hopefully influence them and show that anything is achievable.

Q: How did you get into the construction industry?
I learnt from a young age how to operate machinery - my brothers and Dad were always operators. At my first job I learnt labouring work, how to operate plant and then moved my way up to operate scrapers. From there I became a leading hand and now I have been a foreman for four years.

Q: What is your favourite part of working on the job?
Working with all the different personalities on site and the different dynamics on site. Having all these diverse people working together as a team to do one job - I really enjoy that challenge.

Q: What would you say to young Indigenous people looking to enter the construction industry?
Give it a go - everyone started somewhere, get in there and give it your best. Learn as much as you can and remember there is always someone there to help and guide you.
Did you know we have 21 scrapers that...
- are 5 metres tall, 4.3 metres wide and 18 metres long or the same as a B double truck
- have a 1200-horsepower engine and can travel at a top speed of 50km/h
- weigh 60 tonnes empty and around 110 tonnes when full of dirt
- can carry 35 cubic metres of dirt, which is nearly the same as two road quarry trucks
- have a 985-litre fuel tank, more than 20 times your average car

SUSTAINABLE OUTCOMES DELIVERED SO FAR

12 solar daymakers (lights) have been installed on site for visibility at dawn and dusk and to reduce consumption of diesel

Approximately 98% of construction waste is recycled, minimising material disposed of in landfill facilities

More than 50% of people working on the project are Western Sydney residents
Upcoming work

Work scheduled during the next few months includes:

**Badgerys Creek Road realignment:** The realignment of Badgerys Creek Road has begun, with drainage, utilities and pavement construction underway.

**Relocation of utilities:** Work is underway to decommission old water mains and install new drainage.

**Construction of a new roundabout on Elizabeth Drive:** Construction has begun on a new roundabout connecting Elizabeth Drive to the new alignment of Badgerys Creek Road.

**Bulk earthworks:** The site is divided by Badgerys Creek Road and the project will continue to cut and fill dirt from both the eastern and western sides.

**Stockpiling:** Sandstone is being placed on SP1 for future use in the airport’s construction.

Western Sydney business opportunities

Western Sydney workers and small businesses are gaining significant opportunities as suppliers and subcontractors during construction of Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport.

As the Early earthworks project enters its second year, the project has provided approximately $37 million of subcontracts to Western Sydney businesses.

The 24 businesses from Narellan to Norwest, Blacktown to Bringelly, are delivering a range of equipment and services including plumbing, electrical, traffic control, fencing, demolition and plant equipment supplies.