

CASE STUDY

WORKING WITH BOOROWA COUNCIL TO KEEP JOBS LOCAL IN THE LACHLAN VALLEY



PROJECT OVERVIEW

LOCATION	Lachlan Valley Way, Boorowa, NSW
DATE	June 2009
SCOPE	3.6km shoulder-widening
MATERIAL	600 tonnes DGB20 road base

SOLUTION

When Boorowa Council received funding from the Roads and Traffic Authority to widen the road edge on one of the steepest and most dangerous descents on the Lachlan Valley Way, engineering staff were quick to call in Sharpe Bros' Sidewinder.

Boorowa Council was among the first to take up Sharpe Bros' new contracting solution to protect local jobs by forming a united team of six Council staff and four Sharpe Bros road repair specialists working side by side.

In just two days, the team quickly and effectively widened the narrow sections and fixed soft, crumbling edges along a 3.6km stretch of road using 600 tonnes of road base.

TECHNOLOGY

The Sharpe Bros family company spent millions of dollars developing the Sidewinder train of equipment to repair and widen roads, without extensive reconstruction or traffic delays.

The Sidewinder road widening method uses one purpose built machine to dig a neat trench along the side of the road, and another to fill the excavated trench with road base.

The Boorowa Council crew then immediately bitumen sealed the newly widened road edge, so that the whole operation was completed in a single process.

BENEFITS

Local employment – A united team was formed with Boorowa Council staff working together with a number of highly trained Sharpe Bros road repair specialists.

Faster and more efficient – A job that would have taken a few weeks using an excavator and grader was completed in just a few days using the Sidewinder.

Minimal traffic disruption – With the Sidewinder there is no need to dig up substantial amounts of the road and the job is completed in a single process.

Longer lasting roads – The Sidewinder edge repair process produces consistent pavement layers with consistent compaction which results in stronger, longer lasting roads.

Saving lives – According to the Australian College of Road Safety, the sealing of crumbling road edges can reduce the number of run-off and head-on crashes by 60 per cent.

Safety – The widening works have made the steep and dangerous descent much safer for motorists and truck drivers in particular.

TESTIMONIAL

"The Sharpe Bros crew knew what they were doing and the Sidewinder technology was ideally suited to our needs. The job was completed in record time and we're very pleased with the results."

Council representative, Boorowa Council

Boorowa News

THURSDAY 11 JUNE, 2009, PAGE 4

Road repair innovation supports local jobs

AN innovative road repair machine, the Sidewinder, was making roads safer and wider in the Lachlan Valley last week, and because the technology will be operating in conjunction with Boorowa Council's own roadwork team it has the additional benefit of retaining local jobs.

Road repair and maintenance company, Sharp Bros has reported to increasing unemployment rates with a new solution that generates work for locals by moving away from the traditional contractor arrangement in which all equipment and staff are brought in from other parts of the state.

Joint Managing Director, Michael Sharpe, said it was more important than ever to protect local jobs and keep costs down for councils so the company had begun working in closely with councils' own roads crews to quickly and efficiently fix dangerous narrow roads and soft edges.

"Boorowa Council was one of the first council's to recognise the benefits of bringing in the most effective shoulder-widening technology and a number of highly trained Sharp Bros road repair specialists to work as part of a united team with their own staff," Mr Sharpe said.

The sidewinder machine will be paving a one metre wide gravel shoulder on a 1.5km stretch of Lachlan Valley Way with work starting on June 3.

Mr Sharpe said the family company

had spent millions of dollars to develop a series of technologies to repair and widen roads, without extensive reconstruction and traffic delays.

"Costs are substantially reduced for councils because a project that would normally take at least a week using traditional methods can be completed in a day using the sidewinder," Mr Sharpe said.

Mr Sharpe said the usual way of repairing broken edges or widening a road, is to dig up a substantial amount of the road before resurfacing, which takes a long time, causes major traffic disruption and is quite costly.

"The Sidewinder process, which extends the life of the road and reduces traffic disruption, uses one purpose built machine to dig a neat trench along the side of the road, and another to fill the excavated trench with gravel, hotmix asphalt or even recycled materials," Mr Sharpe said.

Mr Sharpe said more councils were using the Sidewinder to fix road edges due to the environmental, safety, quality and cost benefits the process provided.

"Widening roads is a valuable investment for councils, as it provides better access for residents in regional areas, and can reduce the incidence of road accidents in the community," Mr Sharpe said.

According to the Australian Collage of Road Safety, the sealing of crumbling road edges can reduce the number of run-off and head-on crashes by 60 per cent.



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Road repair and maintenance company, Sharpe Bros, congratulates Boorowa Council for making roads safer in the Lachlan Valley while retaining local jobs.

Last week Boorowa Council and Sharpe Bros worked together to repair and widen soft and crumbling edges on a section of the Lachlan Valley Way making the road safer, stronger and longer lasting.

Boorowa Council is one of the first councils in NSW to recognise the benefits of bringing in the most effective shoulder-widening technology, the Sidewinder, and a number of highly trained Sharpe Bros road repair specialists to work as part of a united team with their own staff.