



MACMAHON

## ***Media Release***

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### **ADrail wins prestigious industry award**

Australia's largest engineering project in recent times, the Alice Springs to Darwin Railway, has been awarded the prestigious Australian Construction Achievement Award (ACAA) announced in Sydney on May 7, 2004.

Awarded by the Australian Contractors Association and the Institution of Engineers Australia, ACAA recognises those building Australia's infrastructure who strive for world's best practice.

The other finalists were Federation Square, Suncorp Stadium, Hail Creek Coal Handling and Processing Plant and Stadium Australia- Post Olympic Reconversion Works.

ADrail, which completed the Alice Springs to Darwin railway, was designed and constructed by a joint venture between Macmahon Holdings (10%), KBR (50%), Barclay Mowlem (20%) and John Holland (20%).

The project was completed five months early and on budget. It had an excellent safety record and there was no lost time due to industrial disputes. The project was strongly supported by the community and local indigenous groups. The link between design and construction provided time and cost savings.

Macmahon chief executive officer Mr Nick Bowen said the company had a long history with the project. It played an integral role in constructing embankment and bridges on the Tarcoola to Alice Springs Railway, which started in 1978.

He said it was fitting Macmahon was a major player in completing the Adelaide to Darwin Railway more than 20 years later.

"Macmahon is proud to have been part of this project which will provide economic and social benefit to Australia," he said.

"This railway connects each mainland capital city enhancing our export-import potential and tourism opportunities. Already our defence force has utilised this service to transport equipment from their Darwin base, south near Port Augusta in South Australia. This enabled the Army to train at an alternative location during the wet season."

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Construction by ADrail involved 15 million cubic metres of earthworks, drainage, 93 new bridges 145,000 tonnes of steel rail, 2.3 million concrete sleepers and tracklaying 1420 kilometres of new railway.

Macmahon's involvement included provision of: management and supervision for earthworks, mobile plant and operating labour.

The 1420km of railway was completed in only 31 months.

The inaugural freight train left Adelaide on January 15, 2004 and arrived in Darwin on January 17, 2004. Ramp-up to full production will be over three years.

The new railway is owned and operated by Freight Link (Macmahon 10% shareholder) under a BOOT scheme for the next 50 years.

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