

Bending the Rules to Meet Strict Design Specification

One of Australia's leading steel tube and pipe manufacturers, Orrcon, played a key role in the recently completed Inner City Busway in Brisbane – a development that called for innovative thinking in order to build an arched structure across a sunken roadway and to ensure passing traffic was protected from wayward golf balls from the adjoining Victoria Park Golf Club.

Designed to allow for possible future conversion to light rail and one of six dedicated Busway tunnels in the 4.7km long Inner City Busway, the project also took into consideration the visual impact on the environment, access to platforms and the specific demands of each area.



The task that faced Orrcon was not only to supply the pipe to build an arched structure across the sunken roadway and through the Victoria Park Golf Course but to also supply in a time frame to disturb golfers and traffic as little as possible.

The Inner City Busway passed through an urban tunnel before entering the golf course, and, said Orrcon's Application Specialist, Mr. Lindon Flancbaum: "We then had the task of providing pipe for the structure across the roadway – and ensuring that passing traffic was safe from wayward golf balls - in effect a Busway protection screen with the pipe itself acting as a support for the screen to protect the buses

The structure was built with over 400 tonnes of steel pipe supplied by Orrcon, the majority manufactured at its world-class pipe and tube mill in Wollongong and then cold-bent offsite. The steel pipe ranged in diameter up to 323mm and in lengths from 7.3 metres to a staggering 23 metres long with no intermediate welds to meet the project's strict design specification.

"The bending and forming of the steel pipe to create a curved, flowing structure demonstrates the design flexibility offered by steel hollow sections. The project's design specification was successfully achieved, and the character of the area and fairways were both preserved by the completed structure."

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Mr. Flancbaum went on: “Orrcon’s Qld sales manager, Graeme Beikoff worked closely with staff at the company’s Wollongong mill to ensure that the strict pipe size tolerances and short lead times required by project developer Clough Seymour Whyte, were met without a hitch.



“The whole shipment of pipe was also hot dip galvanized before being erected.”

“Once in place and bolted at each end of the span on concrete piers, 65mm pipe manufactured at our Brisbane based mill was used to cross brace the entire structure.

“The final part of the project was to ensure the safety of traffic and the public. To this end, the whole structure was overlaid with a special mesh net, the holes in which are smaller than the diameter of a golf ball.

“After all, a stray ball through the windscreen of a car, bus or truck could spell disaster.”

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