

Formula 1™ Qantas Australian Grand Prix

Case study – Custom made road barriers



Humes help deliver a safer Grand Prix for Melbourne

In the fast-paced world of Formula 1™ motor racing, driver and spectator safety is always paramount. This year the Australian Grand Prix Corporation, owners of event facilities for the Formula 1™ Qantas Australian Grand Prix, increased the safety of their facilities in line with new guidelines from the Confederation of Australian Motorsport (CAMS). Humes worked closely with the APP Corporation to deliver the new safety barrier while meeting tight project time frames and maintaining a professional standard for the course.

Located in inner-city Melbourne, Albert Park Lake is a public garden that is transformed each year into a Grand Prix street circuit. Concrete road barriers with high fencing are placed around the track to protect spectators and drivers. The barriers are interlinked so that in the case of an extreme collision the fencing will stay intact to protect spectators.

Humes has a history of providing end-to-end design solutions and high quality products to APP Corporation (Engineering Project Managers) and it was due to this on-going relationship that the APP Corporation initially contracted Humes to supply 161 concrete barriers for the 2011 Formula 1™ Qantas Australian Grand Prix.

During the manufacturing process, the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (CAMS) added a requirement that emergency vehicles were to have access to the race track through a long section of fencing. The interlocking nature of the barriers meant that this requirement was impossible to meet using the existing barrier design. Humes' in-house design team, in co-operation with the APP project management team, made a design modification to meet the new requirements and ensure the barriers went together correctly and on time. The barriers were manufactured using a 50MPa self-compacting concrete, which gave a tough and durable composition, while also delivering a much more aesthetically pleasing finish than standard barriers.

The client was so impressed with the results of the first order that a second purchase order was made to upgrade some existing stock. "Humes provided an excellent end-to-end service, with high quality and cost-effective products delivered on time. We were delighted with the end product, and as a result, have extended our initial contract with Humes to include the manufacture of extra barriers." - Luke Kelly, Project Manager, APP Corporation.

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Project

2011 Formula 1™ Qantas Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne

Client

APP Corporation

Product supplied

Custom made road barriers

