



## THE AWARD-WINNING WYNYARD WALK

A major pedestrian walkway now connects Sydney's Wynyard Station to the bustling Barangaroo waterfront precinct and the CBD. Having recently won the State Award for Infrastructure Projects at the Concrete Institute of Australia's Awards for Excellence, the new Wynyard Walk is a stunning example of precast concrete in Australian infrastructure.

Barangaroo's waterfront development alone attracts up to 33,000 visitors and occupies approximately 23,000 office workers daily. The new 180-metre walkway allows pedestrians to travel from the station to the waterfront in just six minutes, making it a vital part of the NSW Government's commitment to meet transport demands in Sydney.

National Precast member, Asurco Contracting, manufactured precast glass reinforced concrete (GRC) panels for the walls and ceiling of the tunnel. That process involved the framing, mould-making, manufacture, installation and coating of the elements.

Owner of Asurco Contracting, Des Pawelski, says that although the curvature of the tunnel posed challenges, the end result is magnificent.

"The GRC panels feature beautiful stainless-steel strips and are coated in anti-graffiti paint," he explains.

"The panels twist and curve with the bends of the tunnel. It was a really challenging job but the architects did a brilliant job and the end result is stunning."

GRC cladding panels are manufactured using a cement-based composite material with alkali-resistant fibres which are dispersed throughout the product and serve as reinforcement. Because the fibres add flexural, tensile and impact strength, the result is a strong yet lightweight architectural material.

### Precaster

Asurco Contracting

### Client

Transport for NSW

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National Precast's Chief Executive Officer, Sarah Bachmann, says the use of GRC for Wynyard Walk allowed for exciting aesthetic possibilities.

"Each GRC project is unique in both scope and application and demonstrates the flexibility of the product for custom-made impressive patterns like this one," she explains.

Ms Bachmann says the project winning its category in the Awards for Excellence makes a statement about the local state of play of concrete and GRC in particular. The awards celebrate the outstanding achievements in concrete design, construction and materials in Australia.

"Another precast project, the Song School, won its category award as well as the big award – the coveted Kevin Cavanagh award. Wynyard Walk winning this award category as well really says something about what can be achieved with precast."

Precast concrete provides a range of advantages over cast-on-site (insitu) concrete, and Ms Bachmann says Wynyard Walk is merely one example of this.

"Precast has such versatility when it comes to realising an architect's vision. Any shape, colour and texture can be achieved. With finishes that cannot be matched by insitu

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