

Project Overview

The South Morang Rail Extension Project (SMREP) is an alliance between the Department of Transport, Metro Trains Melbourne, VicRoads, John Holland, and AECOM.

The project consists of construction of 3.5km of new double rail track from Epping to South Morang, duplication of 5km of existing single track, construction of 3 new road bridges and 2 new rail bridges, construction of 2 new premium station precincts at Epping and South Morang (both set down approximately 7m below existing ground level).

Geotech's works were a subcontract in 2 parts to SMREP to :-

- (a) construct all retaining wall and foundation piles of differing diameter and length, mostly into hard basalt rock; and
- (a) to construct the soil nail and shotcrete retaining walls across the project.

A major challenge on the project was working within a limited rail corridor of approximately 8-10m across whilst operating plant such as soil nail drilling rigs and piling rigs. This involved close coordination of works with other work groups including structures, earthworks and rail to ensure all parties were able to achieve a favourable outcome.

Over the course of the project Geotech's specialist construction team constructed the following:

- approximately 550 bored piles
- over 30,000 lineal metres of soil nails and rock bolts
- over 17,000 square metres of shotcrete

At the height of works on site the construction team consisted of 2 site engineers, 2 foremen and up to 35 plant operators, steel fixers, shotcreters and labourers.

The works were completed over a 12 month period from October 2010 to October 2011.

