

# Creating Cladding Solutions



ARCHITECTURAL cladding solutions specialist ACLAD was first approached by the Tugun Bypass project manager about the north and south entrance canopies.

They were originally designed as tapering trapezoid features, which would provide the motorist with a sequential experience on the approach and departure of the two tunnels.

ACLAD Managing Director, Mr Daron Hodder said, while the design was cutting edge, it was practically unbuildable as the structural design parameters and limitations of the cladding had been exceeded.

“ACLAD together with their specialist engineer were able to provide the solution by using the latest in 3D modelling software,” he said.

“The entire entrance canopy assemblies were designed from the outside in so as to give the truest representation of the architect’s original specification.

“All measurements were taken directly from the computer-generated designs and manufactured to exact specification.

“ACLAD’s factory is highly mechanised with the latest machinery, so was able to produce all the curved complex panels, supplied and installed without once having to pull out a tape measure.

“Total accuracy was achieved and the end result is very pleasing to the senses.”

On analysing the challenge for the entrance canopies, ACLAD made the builder aware that it was able to offer a cladding solution on the tunnel and ramp wall linings too.

“Originally fibre cement panels were called for,” said Mr Hodder.

“These are extremely heavy to transport to the site (resulting in a significant number of truck deliveries), difficult and labour intensive to position into place and offer an inferior surface finish imposing higher maintenance costs and poor visual appeal – an expensive choice both short and long term.

“Alpolic FR is a much lighter, easy-to-handle product with a smoother finish: a fluoropolymer paint finish that has a design life of 40 to 50 years.

“The installation of a lightweight lining system ensures the financial resources are spent on the hi-tech material and not on the labour required to install it.

“Our proposal for the linings was more cost effective with a higher benefit for the owners.”

It seemed ACLAD had an architectural cladding solution for everything, so the Tugun Bypass project team decided to throw one more challenge at the company: the New South Wales/ Queensland state border feature.

“Artistically designed, this feature is 22m high and is positioned exactly on the state border,” said Mr Hodder.

“It was up to us to provide the building material and construction solution and turn the idea into physical reality.

“The final product comprises of a series of 4400mmx1400x400-high rectangular blocks, stacked on top of each other.

Each block is off-set to the next one and as it climbs the blocks not only spread out, but also twist to give a stunning visual effect.”

The feature’s colour was to be a bright red.

“Alpolic FR is the only choice of material that can offer a perfect smooth alignment with a paint finish (fluoropolymer technology) that is the latest fluoro-carbon technology,” said Mr Hodder.

“Red pigment has always been difficult to stabilise.

“This challenge is met with Alpolic FR and so the border feature will be maintenance free for 30 plus years.”

For more information on ACLAD go to [www.aclad.com.au](http://www.aclad.com.au)

