

MEDIA RELEASE

February 2020

MARR COMPLETES GAME-CHANGING LIFT ON SYDNEY METRO PROJECT

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA: Australian crane company Marr Contracting Pty Ltd (The Men From Marr's) completed the world's heaviest tower crane lift this month as part of a milestone moment in Australia's largest public transport project, Sydney Metro City & Southwest.

The world-record lift saw a 255-tonne section of one of the Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs), named 'Mum Shirl', lifted from the exit point of the tunnel it has been digging under the city to connect the new Martin Place and Barangaroo metro stations.

Using the world's largest capacity tower crane, a specially designed Marr M2480D which can lift up to 330 tonnes, the company lifted the machine's front 'shield' section in a single lift.

For the lift, the M2480D crane was configured with a 55-metre boom and a six fall 330 tonne hook block, allowing it to make the record lift.

In a coup for the John Holland CPB Ghella (JHCPBG) joint venture delivering the tunnel infrastructure for the Sydney Metro City & Southwest project, it's the first time a tower crane has been used to lift a TBM component of this weight. Through its size, capability and sheer lifting capacity, the crane has proven a game-changer for similar large-scale urban infrastructure projects in Australia and around the world.

Marr Contracting Managing Director Simon Marr said the crane is operating from within the station box adjacent to the retrieval point for the TBM meaning it's only taking up an area of 4x4 metres, which is 10 times less room than a more traditional crawler crane and gantry set-up.

"Tunnel boring machines are often used in urban settings with limited space and are traditionally installed and retrieved by crawler cranes and gantry set-ups which can take up a lot of room, are costly, and provide additional issues around ground preparation next to the excavation from which the TBM is to be installed or retrieved. Our uniquely designed M2480D crane is a simple solution in many situations. It doesn't require an expansive set up and because it can be assembled in the existing excavation, it doesn't take up valuable room on an already congested work site. As the largest capacity tower crane in the world, it can also make lifts that no other crane can, which often means fewer lifts and that means less time and reduced risk on site," Mr Marr said.

"The John Holland CPB Ghella joint venture has become the first in the world to use this innovative Australian technology and, in doing so, has signalled there is a simpler, smarter way to go about construction. With this successful lift, we have revolutionised the way urban projects can be undertaken and shown the world that Australia is leading the way in innovative infrastructure solutions."

Marr's M2480D crane was already on site helping in the construction of the new Sydney Metro Barangaroo Station but was given added duties by John Holland CPB Ghella to include the TBM extraction.

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The Men from Marr's were initially contracted to deliver heavy lifting craneage services for the Northwest Rapid Transit (NRT) consortium – comprising John Holland, CPB Contractors and UGL Rail – on construction of Sydney Metro's Castle Hill Station in 2016. After the successful completion of that project in October 2018, Marr cranes have been brought in to do the heavy lifting on more stations including Barangaroo and Martin Place.

“We work closely with our clients to understand their challenges and what they require. We listen first and then adapt and implement solutions that add real value back to their projects,” Mr Marr said.

Once the M2480D crane has finished extracting the TBM, it will be reconfigured to continue working on the construction of Barangaroo Station.

Images are available to download from: <https://www.gettyimages.com.au/photos/james-d-morgan?events=775486047> (Photos by James D Morgan/Getty Images)

Media contact: Kris McIntyre m: +61 406 074 113 e: kris.mcintyre@marr.com.au

Notes to editors: The Men from Marr's (Marr Contracting) are world leaders in the design and delivery of heavy lift luffing tower cranes and heavy lifting services. With more than 90 years' experience working on projects in Australia and around the world, their expertise spans the large-scale construction, mining, oil and gas, power, nuclear, major transport infrastructure, technology and marine sectors. Not just a crew and cranes for hire, they're big thinkers and problem solvers who love a challenge with a string of world-firsts to their name – including the design of the world's largest capacity tower crane, the Marr 2480D Heavy Lift Luffing (HLL) crane.

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