

# East Arm Rail Bridge



Client: Department of State Growth  
Value: \$350,000.00  
Completed: 2009

A TRUCK CARRYING AN EXCAVATOR STRUCK THE EAST ARM RAIL BRIDGE BADLY DAMAGING IT. THE INCIDENT CAUSED THE CLOSURE OF THE EAST TAMAR HIGHWAY AND SIGNIFICANT DISRUPTION TO ROAD AND RAIL FREIGHT IN AND OUT OF BELL BAY.

## THE PROJECT

Immediately following the incident, VEC was asked to assess the bridge in conjunction with Pitt and Sherry. It was quickly established that the bridge was in an unsafe condition, but with some quick modifications, the installation of emergency propping around the damaged steel superstructure, highway traffic could be let back underneath. Within one hour, a VEC team were onsite removing hazardous concrete pieces to enable the opening of the highway to traffic.

By lunchtime the following day VEC had installed height gantries (having been manufactured over night). Within

eight days of the truck strike, VEC had driven the design and installed a prop and substantial cross bracing. A second crew had also removed the railway tracks from the bridge, placed new sleepers and reinstalled the rail. Following a load test, the bridge was again opened to full train loading. All work was undertaken under heavy traffic control.

VEC then manufactured a replacement bridge and completed the replacement over a weekend rail shutdown and intermittent highway closure. The replacement bridge was installed within six weeks of the bridge strike.

