

## Signal box relocation an Australian first

Wednesday, 12 September 2007

**STRUCTURAL moving and heavy haulage company Mammoth Movers has undertaken a mammoth task this week with the relocation of the historic Hornsby Signal Box – a 320-tonne brick and fibreboard structure – in New South Wales. This is said to be the first time such a large structure has been moved in one piece in Australia.**

The NSW Government's Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation chose Mammoth Movers because it is the only company in Australia equipped to uplift and relocate masonry structures.

The relocation of the signal box, which became operational in 1928, is part of an extensive upgrade of Hornsby Railway Station and is believed to be one of the last intact examples of its era.

According to Mammoth Movers spokesman Chris Westlake, the only solution until now would have been either to demolish the building or to undertake a time consuming and expensive heritage deconstruction and rebuild.

"A building such as this would be very difficult to deconstruct because the signalling machinery inside it is integral to the structure," he said.

"By using Mammoth Movers, TIDC is able to relocate the building and its contents in one piece, with no risk to the structural integrity of the building or the delicate and fragile machinery inside it.

"The move can be undertaken at much less time and cost than any alternative and at less risk and disturbance to adjacent rail infrastructure, while preserving in pristine condition an item of historical significance."

The Hornsby Signal Box was moved about 150m to a new site.

Westlake said Mammoth Movers spent several months preparing for the relocation which involved securing the structure for excavation and uplifting, preparation of the new site and securing an access route.

While relocating prefabricated buildings is routine, the technology required to move solid masonry buildings has been used internationally for some time, but has not been used previously in Australia.



An Australian first - the relocation of the Hornsby Signal Box in one piece



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