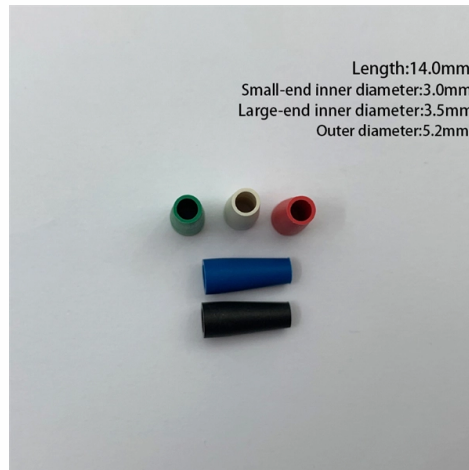


Cost of Long-Span Bridge Construction in Australia



Overview

Australian road and bridge works Looking at the supply side, conditions have been improving but remain very tight. The Infrastructure Australia Market Capac.

Key Takeaways

Long-span bridge construction in Australia typically ranges from AUD 4 million to over AUD 100 million, depending on span, materials, and site conditions. Cost Overview

The cost of constructing long-span bridges in Australia varies widely based on bridge type, span length, structural system, materials, and site constraints. Large highway or multi-span bridges can exceed AUD 4 million, with some complex projects reaching AUD 100 million or more for spans exceeding 200 meters or requiring specialized foundations and access arrangements . Smaller pedestrian or rural bridges may cost significantly less, starting around AUD 50,000 to AUD 2 million depending on design and materials .

Key Cost Drivers

- Bridge Type and Span: Multi-span highway bridges, cable-stayed, or arch bridges are more expensive than simple beam or truss bridges .
- Materials: Concrete decks, weathering steel, or epoxy-coated materials increase upfront costs but may reduce long-term maintenance .
- Foundation Conditions: Deep pile foundations or challenging geotechnical conditions significantly raise labor and equipment costs .

- **Access and Site Constraints:** Urban locations with traffic management requirements or remote sites with limited access can increase project costs .

- **Labor and Industry Capacity:** Tight labor markets and shortages of skilled infrastructure workers in Australia have contributed to cost inflation, with the ABS Road and Bridge Cost Index rising by 3.3% in 2024 and projected to increase further .

Regional and Economic Considerations

- New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland dominate bridge construction activity due to strong economies and political focus on infrastructure .

- Material shortages and high construction firm insolvencies have added upward pressure on costs, making accurate budgeting essential .

- **Inflation and input costs:** Construction input costs for roads and bridges are currently around 1.5%, with overall cost inflation expected to continue at 3-4% annually .

Cost Management Strategies

- Modular or prefabricated components can reduce labor and crane time.

- Value engineering on deck finishes and railings can optimize budgets.

- Staged construction minimizes traffic disruption and associated costs.

- Multiple bids help benchmark prices for key components and labor rates .

Summary

For planning purposes, long-span bridge projects in Australia should be budgeted from AUD 4 million for simpler highway bridges to over AUD 100 million for complex, multi-span structures, with costs influenced by span, materials, foundation, labor, and regional factors. Careful consideration of design, site conditions, and procurement strategies is essential to manage costs effectively .

Article Content

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Efficiency and Economy in Bridge and Building Structures

Table 2 lists the cost and steel “efficiency coefficients” for suspension and cable-stayed bridges, including most of the longest span

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This document is for preliminary research. Verify specifications against current standards, product documentation and project requirements.

