



Case Study 43

Peel Street Redevelopment

Tamworth NSW

**Representing Australia's clay
brick and paver manufacturers**

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Client: Tamworth City Council

Pavement design: Environmental Partnerships

Pavement construction: Gemtaz (stage 1), SB & BA Brennan (stages 2 and 3)

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(This page) Bede Lane (left) and Michael Bloem in the forecourt of the Tamworth City Council offices. At night the pavers take on a glow under the period street lamps, encouraging and attracting street diners.

(Facing page) The strong diagonals break down the paving mass and reduce the street's linearity. The spectacular palms and other trees give much needed summer shade and add colour to the street. The project required detailed planning to minimise disruption to trade.

Photography by The Northern Daily Leader and Shot by Jake

Until recently Tamworth's Peel Street was typical of country Australia: narrow footpaths, mountainous gutters, angle parking and no parking meters.

Parking is still free but this shopping, business and dining precinct has been revitalised by a three-stage transformation.

In the mid-'90s a Tamworth City Council working group looked at ways of enhancing Australia's 'Country Music Capital.' The council called in Environmental Partnerships to masterplan the Peel Street redevelopment.

"The basic theme is wide footpaths, which enables trees to be put on the footpaths," explains Bede Lane, the council's survey and design technical officer. The trees provide shade and encourage outside dining.

Each stage commenced with an extensive civil works program. In stage three, which opened in September 2003, Peel Street was closed to traffic for three weeks. Crews worked 24/7 to renew water mains and water services, construct a roundabout and new kerb-and-gutter, and reconstruct the road pavement.

"Once that was done we started on the footpaths," says Michael Bloem, Tamworth's senior roads and drainage engineer. From 6 pm until 4 am a crew pulled up a section of footpath, renewed all services and prepared for the slab pouring. A second crew poured the unreinforced slab which hardened by 7 am, ready for business.



The paving contractor also worked anti-social hours, commencing at 3 am with the objective of paving to a shop entrance by the time doors opened. "At no stage were people not able to get into a shop when it opened for business," emphasises Michael Bloem. The pavers are laid on a thin sand bed with narrow sand-filled joints stabilised with a water-based binder.

The pavement body comprises a red clay paver laid in diagonal squares and triangles, flanked by cream pavers. The paver colours have lifted the street and revitalised nightlife. "It's just a great atmosphere at night with the decorative lights among the trees," Bede Lane comments. Maintenance access is also enhanced. "Pavers are so convenient, just lift and do maintenance on sub-surface services and put back down again."

The scheduling and attention to detail took its toll. "I've just rediscovered sleeping!" laughs Michael Bloem who goes on to say "If I had to do it again I'd do it the same way. At the end of the day I walk down the street with a great sense of satisfaction."

“It’s just a great atmosphere at night
with the decorative lights among the trees”

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Photography by Mike Scully