

ECOSCIENCES CASE STUDY

The opportunity

Work has commenced on the redevelopment of the old Boggo Road Gaol site into a new, vibrant inner city Ecosciences Precinct, which will be Australia's first centre dedicated to solving some of the country's biggest environmental issues. The precinct is part of the Queensland Government's Smart State Strategy and will focus on climate change, protecting natural resources and environment, and ways to grow farming, mineral, forestry, and marine industries so they are competitive and sustainable.

The Ecosciences Precinct will be a science "centre of excellence" and contribute to Queensland's growing reputation for scientific research and innovation. This critical mass of scientists will also provide the opportunity for Queensland to export sustainability knowledge and services to the Asia-Pacific region. The Precinct will be located on the 9.5 hectare Boggo Road Gaol site at Dutton Park, one of the largest undeveloped sites within Brisbane's inner-city, and is expected for completion early 2010. The design of the precinct will be of a very high standard that will promote collaboration among scientists with state-of-the-art facilities, and is being developed under the principle of sustainable development.

The \$280 million development will house around 1,000 staff and consist of offices and staff support areas, a cafe, an education centre, workshops, laboratories, insect houses, glasshouses and greenhouses.

Hassell are the Architect and Principal Consultant for the design of the Ecosciences Precinct and Watpac Construction Queensland Ltd has been appointed as the Managing Contractor for Precinct.

ICN Queensland was intimately involved with this project since the start of the construction. ICN Queensland's Government Projects Manager Steve Jones said "our involvement with the project ranged from conducting capability searches for each contestable trade package, developing a Local Industry Participation Plan (LIPP), and upon request of the contractor, we are conducting monthly reports on the progress of the project and its compliance with the LIPP."

"Contestable trade packages are those where the products and services can be sourced from overseas or interstate, our job is to keep the work here in Queensland where possible. For each contestable trade package, we would nominate up to half a dozen capable local suppliers, giving WATPAC a good range to choose from" said Jones

ICN Queensland has worked with WATPAC on several other major projects including the Gold Coast Stadium and The Gabba. "We have quite a good relationship with WATPAC and they did a great job with complying with the LIPP" said Jones.



Model of the Ecosciences Precinct

The company

Christopher Contracting is well known in the plumbing industry and has extensive experience in many areas including civil drainage, storm water, vacuum sewer systems and syphonic downpipes. They have dealt with all aspects of the industry during the 20 years they have been in operation from small developments to large scale commercial and residential projects. Previous projects that Christopher Contracting have successfully competed include; Gold Coast Stadium, Mater Mothers Hospital, Portside Wharf, Robina Town Centre and various commercial and residential CDB towers.

After conducting capability and capacity assessments, ICN nominated the company for a hydraulics trade package for the Ecosciences Precinct project.

The benefits

Christopher Contracting won the contract to supply hydraulic services to the project, including basic plumbing and drainage, trade waste drainage and gas and fire systems. Gavin Folan, Construction Manager at Christopher Contracting said “we started off with installing in-ground drainage under the slabs, and as the structure is formed, we’ll continue to install hydraulics throughout the building.”

The work is due for completion in 2010 and has provided a good platform for the company to build on their experience with working on projects that have stringent quarantine regulations. “We’ve worked on similar projects including hospitals, universities, residential and commercial buildings where we’ve provided full hydraulic services. This project in particular has a QC3 rating which is quite a high rating for quarantine purposes. Due to the extra types of wastes generated in this facility, there are a few things that are different to the norm, for example, dust proofing some of the hydraulics, decontaminating waste before it goes into the sewer systems and installing stainless steel pipe work. Although we’ve worked with these types of regulations before, it’s always good to continue to build on our experience” said Folan.

“We’ve worked with WATPAC several times, they are aware of our capabilities as a supplier and we have a great relationship with them.

This contract would be classified as one of our medium to large sized jobs and it’s good to be able to work with WATPAC again. ICN’s service is a valuable one to industry, particularly for those companies that want to raise their awareness with major projects proponents” said Folan.

According to the *Manufacturing Sector Impacts Report 2007*, compiled by ICN and Australian Economic Consultants Group, every \$1 million of manufacturing business retained in Australia or freshly generated by Australian companies creates 12 full-time jobs. Every \$1 million of manufacturing business retained or generated by Australian manufacturers also generates \$394,000 in taxes and charges, which benefits Australians as the government can re-inject it into the economy.

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