

SOUTH QUEENSLAND CORRECTIONAL PRECINCT CASE STUDY

The Company

Metal Matrix is a Queensland based company that provides a wide range of steel products and services supplying and erecting structural steel, steel fabrication and various types of metalwork solely for the construction industry. Established in 2003 by Brian and Nathan Harrison, the company now employs 60 staff members made up of trades people and administration staff, and operates out of a 2800m² workshop in Labrador on the Gold Coast.

The Project

The State Government has identified Gatton as the location for a new correctional precinct after 12 months of consultation with South-East Queensland councils. The precinct site is off Gatton-Esk Road, approximately 10km from the centre of Gatton, which lies 100km from Brisbane's CBD.



South Queensland Correctional Precinct

Source: <http://www.baulderstone.com.au/images/projects/302/1.jpg>

Stage 1 of the \$485 million project, which the Department of Public Works is project managing on behalf of Queensland Corrective services is currently underway and expected to be complete in the second half of 2011. This stage of the development will include a 300-bed women's prison with some 30 buildings contained within the secure perimeter and a number of external buildings. Baulderstone is designing and constructing this stage, which includes the infrastructure for the 1004-bed men's prison. The precinct is planned to cater for approximately 3500 prisoners, and subsequent stages are expected to follow over the next decade or so.

There will be a variety of accommodation levels ranging from high security cells to residential style blocks. The facilities will contain all ancillary buildings such as visits, kitchen, laundry, bulk stores, industry workshops, multi-purpose hall, gatehouse, and medical and administration facilities within the secure perimeter. Support facilities such as visitor reception, staff amenities, a dog squad, training facility and sewage treatment plant are provided outside the secure perimeter but within the correctional precinct site area.

The South Queensland Correctional Precinct will bring significant economic benefits to the region, and will create employment opportunities during both the construction phase and its operation. The precinct will mean employment for 250 staff upon completion of stage 1. This staffing number is expected to increase to 1750 when the precinct is fully commissioned. Employment will be across the full range of correction including custodial officers, administration staff, programs and education staff and trade instructors.

The opportunities and benefits

Metal Matrix won the trade package to supply and erect structural steel and complete various metalworks for the Gatton Correctional precinct. The company's Director, Brian Harrison said "we've worked with Baulderstone on a number of different projects including the Allisee Apartment at the Gold Coast, so this contract helped to solidify the relationship with have with them. We've been introduced to a number of different major projects in the past through ICN, which we otherwise may not have won work on. So, although we've got a good relationship with Baulderstone, ICN's nomination is still valuable to us because it reinforces our position as a capable supplier."

The entire contract is valued at approximately \$600K for Metal Matrix, and with future variations to the project it could increase.

"This contract is classified as one of our medium sized jobs, and will take us approximately 6 - 8 months to deliver. We pride ourselves on cost competitiveness and customer service, so although the precinct is a fair way away from our workshop, we have all our own trucks and drivers to ensure timely delivery for our clients. Our company felt the pinch of the economic downturn, but the Government Stimulus package for the construction industry certainly lifted the situation, and this particular contract will help us retain staff over the next year" said Harrison.

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 10 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.

For more information or advice, please contact:

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