

ROCKHAMPTON HOSPITAL

PROJECT

The opportunity

Pierce Engineering is a well-known Rockhampton steel fabrication company. Founded by Noel Pierce in 1968, Pierce Engineering services the wider Central Queensland region including the areas of Rockhampton, Gladstone, Longreach, Mackay and Emerald. The company has been involved in a number of local projects including the Rockhampton Airport upgrade, Rockhampton TAFE redevelopment, Rockhampton High School redevelopment, both Mackay and Gladstone University redevelopments and various public works throughout Central Queensland.

As well as steel fabrication and erection, the company offers a range of allied services which include sandblasting and painting, turning and milling, structural design and certification, welding and machinery modification. Today, Pierce Engineering employs 50 staff members and operates out of a 1200m² steel fabrication workshop which has a 1500m² sandblasting and painting shed attached to it.



Rockhampton Hospital

The Project

The Rockhampton Hospital redevelopment is a \$76 million upgrade which includes the construction of a new Emergency Department, Rehabilitation Unit, Maternity and Pediatrics Unit, Dialysis Unit, and a Learning and Development Centre, together with the consolidation of a number of outlying services into the main Hospital complex. These improvements will enable the establishment of a new general ward which will increase the Hospital's capacity by 30 beds. When completed, the new \$20.5 million Emergency Department will double in capacity from nine bed bays to 18, including 3 resuscitation bays and 15 treatment cubicles.

New staff accommodation is also being built on Cambridge Street and when completed, the new block will consist of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units on 4 levels to provide quality accommodation for staff working at the hospital. Project builders J.M. Kelly Pty Ltd are contracted to construct the accommodation building, as well as the hospital upgrades. This project will result in improved observation and treatment of patients; provide a better work environment for staff, and assist in recruiting and retaining more emergency department clinicians

ICN Queensland developed a Local Industry Participation Plan (LIPP) for JM Kelly, which assisted the company comply with the State Government's Local Industry Policy (LIP). Soumen Dutta, ICN Queensland's Government Projects Coordinator said "we've been involved with JM Kelly on a number of levels, aside from developing a LIPP, we are producing six-monthly reports which capture the progress of the project and we've also completed capability searches for 19 different trade packages.



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As a result, over \$30 million worth of contracts were awarded to local Queensland suppliers, a great result for industry and the Queensland economy. The best thing about ICN's involvement in regional projects is that it gives local companies an opportunity to showcase their capabilities to major project proponents, who, otherwise may not have known about them."

The opportunities and benefits

Pierce Engineering was awarded the contract to supply and erect fabricated steel for the project. The company's Managing Director, Wayne Pierce said "this job is classified as one of our larger projects. We supplied and erected over 130 tonnes of steel and each tonne takes approximately 22 - 24 hours to fabricate."

In this particular project, the opportunity for steel fabrication falls under the regional contestable category, where the challenge is to locate capable and competitive companies from the Rockhampton region so that where possible, the tender is awarded to a business within the region. Sometimes project owners incorrectly assume that sub-contractors from outside the region are the best option, when local suppliers within the region can be competitive and offer great local service.

Pierce Engineering has worked with JM Kelly on a various local projects in the past, including the redevelopment of the Rockhampton High School. Pierce said "although we've worked with JM Kelly a number of times, we appreciate ICN's nomination for the trade package. The service ICN provides is a valuable one to industry, particularly for the suppliers out there that haven't worked on major projects before.

This type of activity helps to keep Rockhampton's economy strong, because it keeps the work directly local. We also tried to do our bit for the region by sourcing all our steel locally. The contract also helped us retain our staff, and provided a good buffer in the economic slowdown."



Pierce Engineering: Steel Fabrication and Erection

source: www.pierceengineering.com.au

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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