

Australian Police boat built in New Zealand

In 2014, Wanganui boat-building firm Q-West Boat Builders built a patrol vessel for the Victoria Maritime Police to patrol the waters around Melbourne.

The construction of two patrol vessels and a dive vessel for the New Zealand Police, a research vessel for the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) and a crew transfer vessel for Meridian Energy are all part of a proven track record that has helped Q-West with their international success.

Colin Mitchell, General Manager of Q-West, said that securing the contract in Australia would have been a lot harder were it not for Q-West's track record with the New Zealand Police and other New Zealand Government entities.

The New Zealand Police work gives international organisations assurance that Q-West is a quality supplier who can build fast and robust vessels, meet stringent technical specifications, and comply with the substantial government risk-management, financial and communications requirements.

Q-West has experience in manufacturing vessels up to 40 metres long and specialise in building high-speed commercial craft. The speed and robustness of the proven vessel was important for Victoria Maritime Police as the operational area of the vessel is vast and requires an exceptional craft.



Patrol vessel VP09 built in 2014 for Victoria Maritime Police

The New Zealand Police appreciate the quality of the build and technical features of their Q-West-built vessels. When the first patrol vessel was built, a New Zealand Police spokesperson said the patrol vessels were a significant technical step forward for the Police and will meet their requirements into the future.

The New Zealand Police were innovative in the procurement of their vessels. They set up a syndicated contract with Q-West Boat Builders, enabling other New Zealand government agencies to buy vessels through the contract. This approach has saved time and costs for government agencies and Q-West. Both Meridian Energy and NIWA used the New Zealand Police syndicated contract to buy their vessels from Q-West. There is no price risk in buying through the syndicated contract as the price is transparently linked through contract formulae to market value.



Meridian Energy's Mararoa and NIWA's Ikatere, vessels built by Q-West Boat Builders



Deodar III and Lady Elizabeth IV, patrol vessels built for New Zealand Police

Additional information

For more information please contact the Better by Procurement team at New Zealand Trade & Enterprise (NZTE) Wellington. Telephone (04) 816 8100.