



Alltype Managing Director Kevin Andrijich (L) with Kwinana Mayor Carl Adams and her team at Alltype's workshop

# From sky walks to smart freeways

A Naval Base engineering contractor is looking to spread its wings after contributing to some of WA's most recognisable structures, writes **Stephen Bell**

If you've driven on Perth's smart freeway or walked on the Kalbarri Skywalk, you've encountered the products of one of WA's more unheralded fabricators. But Alltype Engineering is now coming out of its shell.

Earlier this week, *WA Works* accompanied Kwinana Mayor Carol Adams and her team in touring Alltype's 7000 square-metre workshop at Naval Base to celebrate 35 years in business.

And last month Alltype's parent — ASX-listed WestStar Industrial — said its subsidiary is well positioned for this financial year having secured about \$7 million of new work, including contracts with Primero and the Kwinana Waste-to-Energy plant.

Despite the recent wins, and its ongoing employment of 120 people, the company had "probably flown under the radar" in terms of its industry profile, Alltype Managing Director Kelvin Andrijich said.

"Our aim is to become better known, especially for our site capability" Andrijich said.

Thousands of Perth commuters drive past the company's handiwork each day on the 'smart' section of Kwinana Freeway south of Canning Bridge.

The huge steel gantries are hard to miss — they overhang the freeway to house digital information such as speed limits and closed lanes.

They were also built to last, with the steel being selected to "almost aerospace quality control standards", according to Andrijich.

Alltype also fabricated the twin cantilevered walkways for the Kalbarri National Park Skywalk that projects 25 metres and 17 metres beyond the West Loop gorges.

They were manufactured from high strength architectural Corten plate and steel components that have long lead and technical assembly and welding requirements.

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The eye-catching structures were opened mid-year and already have been trodden on and photographed by thousands of tourists and locals alike.

They were also fabricated in Alltype's

workshop. It was built in 2011 and now contains an automated processing bay, including a Python Coping Robot that cuts, drills and copes steel.

Andrijich said the company is now fabricating and constructing an above-ground gas offtake, metering and custody transfer facility for energy infrastructure company APA Group.

APA is building a 79 kilometre-long lateral gas pipeline from its Goldfields Gas Pipeline that will connect to Kalium Lake's Beyondie sulphate of potash project in the Pilbara.

Alltype also recently secured a new contract for process piping fabrication works from Primero Group for Fortescue Metals Group's WHIMS project at the Christmas Creek iron ore hub; and a job for fabricated structural steel and modules at the Kwinana Waste-to-Energy project amongst others.

Once a significant contributor to the upkeep of Defence's HMAS Stirling naval base and vessels at Garden Island, Alltype is also looking to "get more visibility" in the defence sector, Andrijich said.

"We're keen to re-establish those links."

Meanwhile, the contractor is keeping its eye on the supply of labour as more work comes in.

In the midst of the COVID-19 lockdowns, Alltype received 200 applications for a single advertised position.

Just recently, however, an advertisement for a new position drew just ten applicants, none of them with the skills needed — a reflection of the uptick in resources and public infrastructure work.

Alltype filled the role subsequently and has been able to hold the position.

"In contracting, everyone is monitoring the labour issue at the moment," Andrijich said.

The company employs about nine apprentices at Naval Base and is actively looking for electrical apprentices. ●