

FYFE JMA FLYING IN STAFF TO HELP

NORTHERN TERRITORY GROWTH

Darwin surveying firm Fyfe JMA has adopted a mining industry practice to get around a shortage of appropriately skilled staff in the Northern Territory by bringing in surveyors on a fly-in, fly-out basis.

Fyfe JMA's Division Manager, Warwick Bryant, said that the firm was flying surveyors from its sister office in Adelaide to Darwin and Alice Springs on a three week on, one week off roster.

"It is extremely difficult to get experienced surveyors or recent surveying graduates to come to the Northern Territory to work," he said. "Yet there is a huge demand for surveyors because of the massive expansion that's taking place in Darwin.

"Various Governments have plans for projects valued at almost \$500 million in the next few years and there are huge private sector projects in the pipeline.

"The current skills shortage could lead to delays in the start of projects and we have been able to win a lot of work by being able to call on additional expertise to meet peaks in demand."

Fyfe JMA is part of national surveying firm Fyfe, which is based in Adelaide and has operations throughout Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Projects Fyfe JMA is working on in Darwin include development of the new Rosebery Schools, valued at around \$60 million, further land developments at Palmerston and the \$110 million Tiger Brennan Drive extension project.

The work at the new Rosebery primary and middle schools commenced this month and will involve planning the layout for the 14 classrooms and school buildings, car parks, playing fields, bulk earth works and the provision of power, water and sewerage services.

The schools will share facilities such as playing fields and gymnasium and cater for 850 students in the middle school and 600 in the primary school.

"If we are to provide timely service to our clients and continue our growth we need to find additional staff," Mr Bryant said.

"It would be preferable to have the staff permanently in Darwin and I would immediately take on an appropriately qualified, experienced surveyor and a graduate surveyor if I could find them.

"The fly-in, fly-out option is the next best solution."

Fyfe's Managing Director, Mr Mark Dayman, said Fyfe frequently flew staff in and out to service remote operations in Queensland.

"The decision to expand this to provide additional resources to Darwin and take advantage of spare capacity in Adelaide was an obvious extension," he said.

"Darwin is a real growth area for us and an increasingly important part of our operations."

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